Daily Report

Latin America

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Cuba

Use of Chemical Weapons in Angola Denied

FL3008125289 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 30 Aug 89

[Text] Cuba has strongly denied the false accusations of a British expert regarding the alleged use of chemical weapons in Angola, and it added that the investigations carried out to verify that these allegations had no scientific basis.

Magda Bauta, Cuban charge d'affaires to international organizations in Geneva, affirmed that Cuba has never used chemical weapons in its internationalist mission in Angola or anywhere else. Bauta, who is also the Cuban representative to the UN Disarmament Committee, referred to a report by Belgian Professor Heyndrick which was used during an oral presentation by Claire Palley to the UN Human Rights Sub-Commission. The Cuban diplomat affirmed that the document has notorious lies and manipulations which are obvious even to the nonspecialized reader.

According to informed circles in Luanda, Heyndrick is a friend of the chief of UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola], Jonas Savimbi. Heyndrick is also known for his support to the opposition group, which has been leading an internal war in Angola for 14 years.

Fighting Reported in Angola Despite Cease-Fire

FL3008215289 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1933 GMT 30 Aug 89

[Text] The Angolan Army has inflicted 79 casualties among the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola [UNITA] armed group last week in response to attacks violating the cease-fire reached in [word indistinct] last June. According to the chief of staff of the People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola [FAPLA], UNITA's last violation took place last Sunday [27 August] 46 km from the southern region of Cuito Cuanavale, where a clash took place in which 36 bandits were killed.

Although the UNITA agreed on a cease-fire before 18 African chiefs of state in Zaire on 22 June, it violated the agreement and unleashed the military offensive to pressure the Angolan Government. Faced with this situation, the high leadership of the Angolan Government ordered the FAPLA to respond firmly and resolutely to the enemy attacks after some hesitancies and lack of vigilance in several military regions.

Ship Back From Angola With MiG's, Helicopters

FL3008233989 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2303 GMT 30 Aug 89

[Report by Daniel Torres on "Exclusivo" program]

[Text] The Cuban ship, "Pino del Agua," today docked at one of the piers at the Revolutionary Navy's central base in Cienfuegos Bay. The ship contains MiG-21's, MI-8 helicopters, and other equipment and weapons.

The ship sailed from ports in Namibia and Luanda, Angola. The ship's captain, Pedro Manuel Roque, told the "Exclusivo" newsroom that the ship experienced no difficulties during its close to 20-day voyage. Roque is an experienced sailor who has made several trips to Africa.

The return of this cargo is part of a sovereign decision made by the Governments of Cuba and Angola. According to Major Enrique Diaz Munoz, the ship carries planes and helicopters that actively participated in combat and supply activities for the Cuban troops that fought in Cuito Cuanavale, Cangamba, and Sumbe. Maj Diaz Munoz added that the equipment returned to Cuba in perfect technical condition.

The unloading and transporting of the combat equipment to its destination will continue today until the task is completed.

Commentary Scores Continued U.S. Contra Aid

PA3108043289 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 30 Aug 89

["Our America" commentary read by Manolo Ortega]

[Text] Although a month has not yet passed since the Central American presidents decided to demobilize the Nicaraguan mercenaries, the necessary steps are already being taken to create the International Support and Verification Commission. And what is the United States doing, meanwhile? Recent reports indicate that the White House had displayed a total lack of concern over the demobilization of what is considered the largest mercenary Army the United States has ever formed in its 2 centuries of relations with Latin America.

These reports were somewhat true, because the U.S. administration had not even gone to the trouble of announcing the existence of contingency plans, which is truly worrisome, given the fact that the mercenary groups waged 10 years of war against Nicaragua with powerful weapons.

Thinking along these lines, I might add that to prepare this military structure, almost $500 million was officially taken from the U.S. federal budget, a figure to which any amount can be added considering the maneuvering of other sectors, the Central Intelligence Agency, National Security Council, Pentagon, State Department, and the scandalous benefits reaped from the trafficking and sale of drugs and weapons.

Nevertheless, Nicaragua and all of Central America will benefit considerably from the decision made at the Tela summit meeting, and it is completely unimportant that the United States must give up its plans of aggression because the counterrevolutionaries have been defeated; they were totally incapable of defeating the Sandinist government. The crux of the matter, however, may be that despite everything, the Republican administration plans to maintain a warlike atmosphere in Central America. President George Bush said a few days ago in Maine that he is opposed to the contras' demobilization prior to the elections scheduled for February 1990 in Nicaragua. The U.S. president foolishly added that the mercenaries' pressure on the Sandinist government was very useful, which openly contradicts the Tela agreement, which calls for the elimination of these forces as an essential step toward achieving lasting peace.

The agreements reached at all of the previous presidential meetings were sabotaged from every angle by the United States. That position, it seems, has not varied. Continued maintenance of the mercenary forces is, in addition to a violation of the Tela agreement, a ridiculous action on Washington's part. The United States is stubbornly insisting on maintaining fighters who have failed, and has continued promoting their leaders' illicit enrichment.

Castro Thanks GDR's Honecker for Greetings

AU2908123989 East Berlin NEUES DEUTSCHLAND in German 26-27 Aug 89 p 1

[ND report: "GDR and Cuba Firmly Linked in Joint Struggle"]

[Text] East Berlin—Fidel Castro Ruz, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba and chairman of the State Council and the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Cuba, has sent the following message to Erich Honecker, general secretary of the SED [Socialist Unity Party of Germany] Central Committee and chairman of the GDR State Council:

With great joy we received the fraternal and militant greetings on the 36th anniversary of the storming of the Moncloa Barracks.

By thanking you for this new message of solidarity on behalf of the Communist Party, the State Council, the Council of Ministers, and all Cuban people, we affirm our firm willingness to continue to develop the exemplary relations between the GDR and Cuba for the benefit of our peoples, the strengthening of socialism, and the joint struggle for world peace.

[Signed] Fidel Castro Ruz

Military Group Leaves PRC After 10-Day Visit

FL3008164789 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1945 GMT 29 Aug 89

[Text] A military delegation from our country, which is headed by Brigade General Moises Sio Wong, left Beijing today after a 10-day visit to China. The Cuban delegation met with General Chi Haotian, chief of staff of the General Staff Department of the People's Liberation Army, and it also toured places of interest in Beijing, Tianjin, and Guangzhou.

Program on Proceedings of Abrantes Trial

FL2908130089 Havana Domestic Radio and Television Services in Spanish 0100 GMT 29 Aug 89

["Special" program on the proceedings of Case No 2 of 1989 of the charges filed by the Special Military Tribunal against Division General Jose Abrantes Fernandez. Program is hosted by Eduardo Dimas and has a guest panel made up of Justice Minister Juan Escalona Reguera, Attorney General Ramon de la Cruz Ochoa, and Supreme People's Tribunal President Raul Amaro Salup. The panel is questioned on the proceedings by reporters Gladys Rubio, National Television Newscast, and Felix Pita, GRANMA; all speakers identified by caption; place not given]

[Text] [Pita] I would like to address Comrade Minister Escalona and reiterate my personal greetings to him since we have not seen each other since the hearings of Case No 1 of 1989 where Minister Escalona did a great job as prosecutor. His absence was something... [changes thought] My comrades and I had hoped to see him as prosecutor in Case No 2 of 1989 because there were some rumors that Case No 2 was a continuation of Case No 1.

If you permit me to turn my greeting into the first question, you now have the first question.

[Escalona] Fine. I think, first of all, that we should make clear that Case No 2 is not a continuation of Case No 1. We acted as prosecutor in Case No 1 because there was a government decision that because of the international and national importance of this case, which is because this was the first time Cuban territorial waters and soil was involved in drug trafficking operations, the government decided that the justice minister, in his position as general, should be called to active duty to act as prosecutor in Case No 1.

For many weeks we dedicated ourselves to these activities. On this occasion [Case No 2], everything seems to indicate that the justice minister's presence—not Juan Escalona's but the justice minister's—was not needed. This is because Case No 2 has a different significance for our nation. The former case had more importance in the international sector, while this one is a case which is of particular interest to we Cubans. Of course, as a government representative we participated in the investigation process and trial preparations of Case No 2 and we had

sufficient and adequate information to help clear up some of the doubts that existed in this case.

Perhaps the only link that exists between both cases is ex-Colonel Antonio de la Guardia, who was sanctioned as we all know, for participating, in one way or another, in both cases, as well as his department, which was Department MC. This department also played a main role in Case No 2, even after this department's functions disappeared. However, at this point we must state that there is no direct relation between one case and the other.

We can, perhaps at your request, explain why I say this.

[Dimas] Minister, it would be good, I think it would be a good idea, to explain the difference.

[Escalona] Fine. In Case No 1, as all our people know, we faced, discovered, acted, and sanctioned a group of officers of the Ministry of the Interior who had dedicated themselves, using the ministry's activities, to hiding their deals and facilitating the transferral of drugs through our nation and our jurisdictional waters. We have to say that at that time, we, and by this I mean the government's leadership, did not find any indication that there was any participation by the leaders of the Ministry of the Interior in the activities of Tony de la Guardia and his department.

We investigated this possible relationship very carefully. We even interrogated and talked with the sanctioned officers so much that hours before the executions, the sanction of the death penalty, we talked with them again. We asked them if there was any participation from the leaders of the ministry and they all said that there was no involvement of the leadership of the Ministry of the Interior, nor was there any way that they could know of their activities. They hid the dollars they earned, which they did turn over to the ex-minister of the interior, in strange operations such as the exploitation of a gold mine in Ghana, a tin operation in I-don't-know-where, and, well, they invented business dealings that they would not carry out.

After the investigations were finished, we learned that the consortium that was created by Department MC—here we refer to the various enterprises that were operating in different parts of the world such as Angola, Ghana, or Panama—invented results for legal activities to cover up the earnings that would otherwise have no explanation.

These were the earnings that they obtained from drug trafficking. Furthermore, when Tony de la Guardia was interrogated on these matters, he himself insisted on helping us clarify these events; he made a very precise statement. He said: Gentlemen, I don't have anything more to lose. I said in the trial that my own brother Patricio had information, which I gave him, on the drug-trafficking operations. If I said this during the trial, why would I try to protect Abrantes or any other of the ministry's leaders? There is no participation, and I assure you of this, of the ministry's leadership in these dealings.

This is how Case No 1 ended, without any link between the two cases that would make us suspect the ministry's leadership, and obviously we did suspect them because all of these activities were so strange. Perhaps in Case No 2 we have found some additional information that would allow us to better understand this affair. For example, we discovered that some of the accused in Case No 2, who were from the Immigration and Naturalization General Directorate, facilitated the process for certain people to leave the country by simply receiving a call from Tony de la Guardia.

This is how we discovered, during Case No 2, the connection between the captain [not further identified] who landed his plane in Varadero on three occasions and his legal exit through the Rancho Boyeros Airport. This was approved by immigration and one of the accused in this case, Lieutenant Colonel [as heard] Gil [Pascual Martinez Gil] who, after receiving Tony de la Guardia's call, facilitated the departure of a citizen who had technically and legally never entered this country. That is to say, he entered the nation covertly in a plane and then left the country as a tourist, thus facilitating his going abroad.

This happened because there was a story, and this we discovered during Case No 1, regarding Department MC's activities. MC was allegedly charged with the important mission of breaking the blockade, etc, etc. So it was receiving support from various departments of the ministry. There was even a conversation, which we now discovered during Case No 2, in which someone, speaking to ex-General [as heard] Abrantes, stated his concern about the possibility that Tony de la Guardia could be involved in drug trafficking operations. To this Abrantes said: Tony de la Guardia cannot be involved in drug trafficking operations because he would have to set up so much coordination within the organ's units that I myself would have to carry that out because this would involve the border patrol, Immigration and Naturalization, and a number of elements. So you see, it could not be Tony de la Guardia.

Later, came Abrantes' removal as minister of the interior. Evidently, when Abrantes' removal was carried out and the nation's leadership published a letter, and it was a very carefully written letter because we did not believe that he was involved in these activities, we said that he was removed from his charge because it is impossible for a minister to head an organ and not be aware of drug-trafficking operations. This shows a flaw in leadership and this is another aspect in this problem. This problem is then dealt with by judicial sanctions. This is what prompted Abrantes' removal from the ministry.

However, when Abrantes was removed from the ministry, there was a moment when, just before his removal, we received a bit of information stating that Abrantes

had access to a report that was sent by a friend of Cuba's. This friend came to Cuba. He came because.... [changes thought] We have to say that during his first visit, he expressed his concerns that, in Colombian drug-trafficking circles, there is the rumor that there are Cubans linked to these activities. So then, that letter determined that this man's presence in Cuba was necessary. This man then came to Cuba, spoke to a MININT [Ministry of the Interior] general specified by Abrantes, and reiterated what he stated in the letter; that there are rumors stating that Cubans are participating in drug-trafficking operations.

This report was seen by General Abrantes the same day the interview was held and he asked this same general to talk to the foreigner again, to ask him for more information, and to ask him for names to then act against them. He was not slowed down, apparently he was not detained in his actions. However, in that report there was a name, the name was Tony de la Guardia. Abrantes did not pass this information on to the leadership of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC].

[Dimas] Excuse me, minister, when you talk about covering up information, are you specifically referring to this instance?

[Escalona] Well, this is one instance. This is an instance in which the commander, personally and almost by accident, met with the MININT general who took the report to the MININT minister. When he accidentally told him: In my conversation with such and such... The commander then asked: And where is such and such? He answered: No, he was here. The commander asked: He was? Did you meet with him? The general answered: Yes, I met with him. The commander asked: Did you prepare a report on that? The general answered: I prepared a report on that. The commander asked: Where is the report? I took it to Abrantes, the general said. The commander asked: Do you have a copy of that report? He replied: Yes, I do. The commander said: Have the report sent.

The report was sent. This was the report the prosecutor used in Case No 2 and showed that even if Tony de la Guardia's name did not appear—although it did—the method used in the operation described in the report had to rouse everyone's suspicions.

Therefore, we are convinced that, if the report would have gotten into the hands of the leadership, the party, and government upon receiving the information on 25 February, an investigation and disclosure process would have begun in full, and perhaps some of the things that happened later on would have been prevented.

This document was found and it definitely determined Abrantes' dismissal. It not only showed that these acts were carried out within the organization without his knowledge but also that there was information that would have allowed action to be taken against these acts. But they were kept quiet. This is finally what determined Abrantes' dismissal.

[Rubio] Excuse me, minister. This is one of the most important charges filed against Abrantes. It is said that he did not follow up on this information and that he manipulated the information. My question is, if there was what appears to be negligence of serious consequences, wouldn't this imply treason?

[Escalona] Not necessarily. I would have to explain a number of matters regarding what we have been able to ascertain after many weeks of work, of investigations regarding Case No 2. We believe there is something which perhaps would be appropriate for our population to learn about. In Abrantes' case.... [changes thought] Abrantes became interior minister in 1985 but he had been vice minister for over 20 years. He handled state security problems in the country—that is, it was not a matter of an individual who was new in a specialized area, who was not aware of certain signs that appeared. Nevertheless, I could say that there was confusion at first in Abrantes' behavior.

In his behavior, Abrantes replaced principles for cronyism—that is, Abrantes had a group of friends and he helped his friends. He prevented his friends from running risks. For example, Abrantes was accused of another cover-up. Abrantes was aware of Diocles Torralba's immoral activities. He even had videotaped evidence of these activities. He kept it in his office for almost 4 months. He asked for new elements to complete the investigation, to complete the information, to prepare a summary and present it to the party and government leadership at the appropriate time. But deep down, he did not want his friend Diocles Torralba to have to face the consequences of his behavior or at least not because of Abrantes.

There are reports on previous actions which are cropping up now in Abrantes' documents on the behavior of certain friends which would have been important for the country's leadership to know about. At times, they were kept in a file. At other times, Abrantes decided to alert his friends to their behavior. He told them he had all the information and that it was necessary to.... [changes thought] He gave them advice.

Considered alone, this latter behavior could be seen as reasonable to a certain extent if deep down it was not a matter of doing favors left and right for his friends with the purpose of getting gratitude from them.

This is to say that his cronyism and his erroneous ideas on these matters of principle regarding comrades who have responsibilities, such as in the Torralba case led him to reject any possibility that Tony de la Guardia could have participated in those drug-trafficking activities.

[Dimas] You could say that he went more on personal loyalties than on loyalty to principles.

[Escalona] I think so. He believed in the loyalty of friends. He was concerned.... [changes thought] He did

not take into consideration matters of principle, matters that were indispensable for him to maintain as a fundamental basis.

Now, to finish the question you asked us, what happens? We arrived at the conclusion, when I say we I mean all of us who participated in the activities relating to Case No 2 and the entire investigative process, that the process to hide information, and it does not deal with just this first report, later I can tell you about other reports, is not a conscious act of cooperation in drug-trafficking operations. If at any moment Abrantes had known that Tony de la Guardia was actually involved in drug-trafficking operations, from what we know of him and have discovered during this investigation, he probably would have warned Tony de la Guardia, removed him from Department MC, and tried to protect him. He would have done this because his friend would have been at risk. Abrantes was aware that sooner or later we were going to find out about it and sooner or later Tony de la Guardia would have to pay the consequences. There would have been a reaction due to friendship. He would have warned Tony and perhaps tried to erase any sign of Tony's actions, which by now were well known in Miami, Colombia, and everywhere. These are places in which he was known as an important drug trafficker.

However, we have not gotten to the point of establishing this relation regarding, as I was telling you, hiding information. On Abrantes' part, this was not a deliberate act of participating in drug trafficking. This was the situation. Later he did receive other information which we could talk about, information he was charged with during the trial.

[Pita] Dr, if you will permit me to interrupt you.

[Escalona] Yes, certainly.

[Pita] My question has to do with this development, or rather, the process of reasoning you have been describing. I am not sure if I should ask you. Because of my question's legal point of view, perhaps it would be more appropriate if I asked Dr Amaro Salup or Dr De la Cruz my question.

According to what we have been reading in our media, and what I have later heard from my comrades and other people with whom we have spoken, it seems that, as a result of this hiding process and never giving the nation's leadership such sensitive information, our comrades, the ones we have spoken with, believe that the prosecutor's pleas which appear in Cuba's newspapers today and which television broadcasts have reiterated in their news casts, our comrades and the people feel that Abrantes was given a sanction that is not sufficiently severe considering the magnitude of the circumstances you previously analyzed. This is to say, since this situation has to do with the minister of the interior, a person who had so many responsibilities, and dealt with a great amount of sensitive information, the comrade prosecutor's plea in Case No 2 is limited. I use this verb because I am reflecting on the state of matters which I have been listening to. A plea of 20 years imprisonment does not seem enough.

I have heard, and I do not want to give many details, that a great deal of people polled had the belief that this case deserved capital punishment. I would like you, as well as Comrades Amaro Salup and De la Cruz to tell us a bit about the prosecutor's plea in view of our codes and laws. I would also like you to tell us if this uneasiness that we have seen throughout the day is warranted.

[Escalona] Well, before giving the floor to the illustrious jurors who accompany me, I would like to say the following. We have received, of course, information on what our people think and that our people are a bit uneasy about this problem which you have referred to. The people want stricter sanctions as just punishment against someone who, until recently, was minister of the interior, member of the PCC Central Committee, and a deputy of the National Assembly of the People's Government [ANPP]. This is a man who has, for almost 30 years, been the leader of the nation's security.

We feel the same way. We believe it is perfectly just and reasonable for our people to believe this. Our people are sensible.

We know the impact the Arnaldo Ochoa Honor Tribunal had. We know what happened during the trial when our people realized that Arnaldo Ochoa was a myth. They were able to see that he no longer was.... [changes thought] In other words, the Honor Tribunal showed what was left of him as a hero, a division general—the man he once was. The trial showed the mess he had gotten himself into due to moral breakdown, etc.

Now, one must keep in mind that we are a civilized society, and we govern ourselves with laws. The laws establish what must be done in each situation. If we judge, like our people, based on feelings and on what represents violations of ethics, morals, and revolutionary principles, naturally, we should have shot Abrantes almost (?without) a trial. However, the case had to be dealt with according to a penal code. I think our comrade attorney general can give us more details on the limitations of the penal code and why it is the way it is.

[De la Cruz] So that we are not repetitive, and Comrade Amaro gave his authoritative opinion from the legal point of view, what has been discussed until now is what is legally termed negligence in service. In other words, negligence constitutes not sending information to the appropriate leaders of the state and party and not actively acting on it—because Abrantes had indications of drug trafficking. We must explain how an attorney general works and how he must act. An attorney general has the same feelings and political principles as our people. He thinks the same way that our people do. Obviously, when an attorney general makes a petition, he must guide himself basically by two factors: the proven facts of an investigation and the law. He cannot act only emotionally, or based on political and moral

opinions. Instead, he must fundamentally act based on the proven facts and in accordance with the law.

I would like to further discuss the proven facts. I think Comrade Escalona has been very clear on this point. At no point could Abrantes be charged with the crimes charged in Case No 1. As Escalona explained, it was never proven that Abrantes was consciously involved in drug trafficking. There are many ways to commit a crime; it can be by organizing, executing, and even cooperating in one, or as an accomplice. These can be the legal basis for charging someone with a crime. However, during the entire careful investigation, it was never proven that Abrantes was intentionally involved in drug trafficking. There was not even any evidence of organizing, planning, cooperating, or even being an accomplice to drug trafficking activities. Since we had to base our charges on proven facts, we could not charge him with the same crime as in Case No 1. We had to present the case to a tribunal whose job is to carry out justice. Its job is not to arrive at moral and political conclusions, but to carry out justice. To do that job, the tribunal has the law and it cannot act outside of it. Obviously, it would be crazy for an attorney general to present a petition to a tribunal for a crime which has not been proven. No attorney general who respects himself does that. Therefore, according to all of us comrades who saw him, the principal military prosecutor, who is also deputy attorney general, acted magnificently. However, he obviously had to stay within the limitations of the law, and he could not charge Abrantes with hostile acts against a foreign government which was done in Case No 1. He had to file charges whose sanction is less severe—the charge of negligence in service. Comrade Rubio asked Comrade Escalona an interesting question. She asked if omission implied treason. Well, from a political and moral point of view, it can be assessed, and one can even reach the conclusion, that it does imply treason. However, political assessment is one thing, moral assessment is another, and legal assessment is still another thing. What takes place within trials are legal assessments. There was not enough evidence to charge Abrantes with this kind of crime which is normally known as a crime of treason. That is why the prosecutor had to limit himself to file a charge of negligence in service. According to the prosecution—and the tribunal will have to decide on that—there was an act of omission, negligence; he did not do what he was supposed to do. Abrantes had enough indications, not proof, that there were some officials in the MININT who could have been involved in drug trafficking. He could have reported these suspicions, possibilities to the leadership of the country; and he could have started an investigation with all the resources this country has. It has enough cadres and the technical resources to have been able to carry out a great investigation. We are certain such investigation would have discovered the drug trafficking problems in time, or at least much earlier than actually occurred.

In this case, his was an act of omission and negligence. Also, we cannot guide ourselves, or rather, when the prosecutor makes a plea, he cannot base his views on suppositions. Why did he not inform someone? Why did he not act as he should have? A prosecutor goes by the facts. He must act by proven facts. He must have proof he can present to a tribunal, proof a tribunal can assess.

This is why we were only able to charge this drug trafficking case that we are investigating with negligence. This is covered under Military Penal Law Article 14.2 and has a maximum sanction of 8 years. In this case, the prosecutor asked for the maximum sanction that could be imposed.

[Rubio] Can the tribunal increase or decrease the sanction?

[De la Cruz] What, excuse me?

[Rubio] Can the sanction be increased or decreased?

[De la Cruz] Well, the prosecutor has asked for the maximum. You cannot impose more than the maximum.

[Rubio] So then, they cannot go beyond 20 years?

[De la Cruz] No. We are talking about concrete charges, drug trafficking, and a concrete crime, negligence in service. There are other crimes of which he is accused, but we have not talked of these yet. We should move on little by little.

[Dimas] Excuse me, I would like to say something. If, from the legal point of view [corrects himself] from the moral and political point of view, due to his high position, Abrantes could receive the death penalty. However, from the legal point of view, based on the crimes that have been proven, he can only receive the 20 years that are being asked for, correct?

[Escalona] Excuse me, Dimas. Amaro can clarify these matters. At this moment, we are referring to one of the charges of which Abrantes is accused. In the warrant for his arrest, it states that he concealed and manipulated information from the PCC and government leadership. The prosecutor clarified for everyone that in the penal code there is no specific charge for concealing information, unless you are referring to economic information. This crime is different than the one that is in the penal code and has a different connotation. The important thing is for our people to understand, and later Amaro can give you details on this, that a code cannot encompass every single type of misconduct that can be committed by a citizen in its standards for sanctions. A code gives a generic definition. Then, certain conducts fall within these generic definitions. This code says that Abrantes' negligence, which could have led to serious consequences for the institution and the state, is to be sanctioned with deprivation of liberty for 3-8 years. This is one of three charges Abrantes is facing. These are the charges the prosecutor then acts on and he asked for the maximum penalty for that crime, the maximum penalty is 8 years.

There is no code in the world that could encompass all of these conducts. It would have to be; I don't know what. We also faced situations like this during Diocles Torralba's trial.

Now, it is important for our people to know that we have not been able to prove a deliberate attempt to hide information, because Abrantes had information indicating that drug-trafficking activities were going on. This concealment was an unintentional action. I ask myself: What would have been our conclusion if, by some method, we could have determined that this act was deliberate on Abrantes' part? I think that the charges would have been different. Nobody in our country, absolutely nobody, can doubt that we would have asked for the death penalty if this had been proven. At present, Cuba is one of the few countries in the world that has the luxury, and I do mean luxury, to arrest and judge someone as high-ranking as a minister of the interior. Remember, this is a minister of the interior who has been in charge of state security for 30 years. This c eates many commitments for us in the internal sector, as well as the external sector. Cuba has never hesitated, not even for a minute, to arrest and judge its minister of the interior, as well as remove him from office.

This is to say, it is important for our people to believe that we have done everything we can in this case. We have acted under the closest scrutiny by the highest leadership of the PCC and the government. We have not found a way to prove that Abrantes' attitude, his conduct, was intentionally done to cover up drug-trafficking activities.

After what happened in Case No 1, we assessed all the information that was published throughout the world regarding Cuba's actions. Some said we are harsh, they noted our actions when all the other countries are eliminating the death penalty, some said we did what we did because it was necessary to punish with them death penalty, and such. We assessed all of these risks.

In our role as prosecutor, we didn't ask for four death sentences, we asked for seven. We believed it was necessary to set an example by sanctioning those MC Department section chiefs—that is, the famous Amado Padron and the famous Elmer. It was necessary to somehow also suppress Sanchez Lima, who was a sinister figure in this drug trafficking world.

We asked for 7 years and the tribunal ruled 4 years. Can anyone have any doubts that if we had had the slightest possibility of imputing an action, we wouldn't have imputed it? Would we be discussing now why the prosecutor asked for the death penalty for Abrantes instead of discussing why he was sentenced to only 20 years? In other words, we acted—and I believe that in the case of the commander in chief's participating in the Council of State meeting, which resulted in the ratification of the death penalty for the four convicted individuals, what Fidel said was very clear—in accordance with the law. We have no other choice. This country has to live in accordance with the law. We cannot let ourselves be dragged by feelings, by revolutionary fervor. This is impossible.

This shows that nobody in this country—perhaps someone may have achieved it so far—nobody, regardless of his responsibility, his role, his past record, can feel above the people or above our revolution. Nobody can feel he can act with impunity.

I believe that what we have experienced in Cuba this summer is a good example that the rectification process we began 3 years ago—and sometimes we find setbacks in its development—is firm because we needed to rectify at the highest levels.

If this is the fighting spirit of our people and our party, who can doubt that if we had had the slightest trace, the slightest possibility, the slightest indication... [incomplete sentence as heard]

Pita asked if this Case No 2 was related to Case No 1. I say yes. Investigations for Case No 2 began with No 1. Everyone had the same suspicions. I explained here how we exhausted all the possibilities of Case No 1 and were able to achieve nothing. Now, with this Case No 2 we can prove Jose Abrantes' intent in this activity linked to drug trafficking. Therefore, the judicial concept of the problem has to change completely. This is the situation. Comrade Amaro can expand on this judicial concept.

[Pita] Dr Amaro, before you expand on the concept, I would like to ask one more question on the matter Gladys was asking regarding the sentence. I was curious and so checked the penal code for the three charges filed against accused Abrantes Fernandez.

I found, although I have no legal knowledge, that the maximum penalties for those crimes were 10 years, 8 years, and 8 years. If my math is correct, that adds up to 26 years. I thought it was strange that the prosecutor's plea is not for 26 years, but only 20 years. I think this is a question that many people may be asking themselves. I would like to include this aspect in Gladys' question.

[Amaro Salup] I will say the following: As Comrade Pita said, for the three crimes filed by the prosecutor—abusing privileges of post, inappropriate use of financial and material resources, and negligence in service—the law establishes sanctions of 10 years for the charge of abusing privileges, and 8 years for the other two. These are the maximum sanctions that can be imposed for those crimes. Even if we consider the peculiarity of these three cases, these are still the maximum sanctions that can be imposed for each of those crimes. Simple math will give you a total of 26 years. This is in accordance with our penal code—not the one that is in effect now, but the one that has been in effect since 1979. This aspect of the penal code was not modified by Law 62. Our penal code already had something instituted in it which is also used in other countries—there are only some countries that do not have it—and that is what is known as a joint sanction.

This sanction manifests itself in various forms—that is, a person who has received a sanction for one crime in a given matter and, while fulfilling or is about to fulfill this sanction, commits a new crime, will receive a new sanction. Then what happens is that both sanctions are joined and given as one. The law establishes a series of requirements for this process.

One of these requirements is that the joint sanction imposed—which is obtained by adding up the different sanctions imposed—does not exceed the maximum of 20 years imprisonment. This is the maximum for this type of sanction. However, there is one exception. The only exception acknowledged by our laws pertains to the death penalty. For crimes whose sanction is imprisonment or the death penalty, there is the possibility, as an alternative, of substituting an extended prison sentence for the death penalty. The extended prison sentence can be up to 30 years. However, to do this, it is imperative that the possibility of imposing the death penalty be an option for the crime the for which the accused is being sanctioned.

[Pita] This is what happened in the Ochoa-De la Guardia case, a case in which there were various sanctions of 30 years.

[Amaro Salup] Exactly. In this case, as we all know, there were several sanctions of 30 years imprisonment, etc. This was possible because the crimes the accused were being judged for could have had the death penalty imposed. The tribunal decided that it was not necessary to go to that extreme, and so substituted—that is, they chose the alternative—the extended prison sentence, which was extended to 30 years. This is the same as saying that in cases in which the death penalty is imposed, there is the legal possibility of imposing a 30-year prison sentence and not a 20-year sentence, which is, in the general sense, the maximum limit for a sanction.

What happens in this case? The death penalty is not imposed for any of the charges. So then, the sum of the three charges gives you 26 years; the maximum penalty allowed by joining the sanctions is 20 years. This, then, is why the prosecutor's plea was for the sanction of 20 years imprisonment. This is a plea—not an idea of his—it is a plea to the tribunal to impose the joint sanction which is 20 years.

[Rubio] Dr Amaro Salup, I wanted to discuss another aspect of the trial, the legal and technical aspect. For example, in this case, which is different from Case No 1, the accused were defended by civilians and not military officers. Also, I do not believe they do not have the right to an appeal—that is, even though the accused are military officers, the process is not the same.

[Amaro Salup] The military penal law proceedings, as well as the civilian penal law proceedings permit—in a consequent manner and in cases involving civilians and military officers—the accused to be tried by a military tribunal. If the military tribunals are not interested in the matter, they can pass the case to civilian tribunals.

In cases involving military officers accused of specific crimes, as well as civilians, the accused can be jointly tried by a military tribunal—that is, our laws, military proceedings, and civilian proceedings allow for this.

Regarding your second question which has to do with appeals, during summary trials, which are requested by the attorney general of the Republic and which was the case for Abrantes' trial—and there is a precedent for this—the president of the People's Supreme Tribunal gives his grounds for the case. If they are found to be adequate, the proceedings would be the same as for the civilian penal process. This means they have the same guarantees and the same proceedings with the exception that the conditions for all those proceedings are shortened—that is, they allow for a faster or more expeditious proceeding.

Regarding a military penal proceeding, when the death penalty is imposed in the first trial, during the review of the case only one appeal and one objection to a higher tribunal is possible. In other words, when the military tribunal, during the first trial— let us use as an example the special military tribunal—imposes the death penalty, even if it is not requested by anyone, there can only be one appeal to a higher court. In this case it would have been the Military Higher Court [Sala de lo Militar] of the High Tribunal. This occurred with Case No 1. When several death sentences were imposed, even if only one had been imposed, the case was appealed to the higher judicial organ.

In this case, Case No 2, no death penalty was asked for, nor is it possible to request it according to the charges filed. We can—as you now know, this case has not received judgment yet—say that this case is not eligible for appeal to a higher tribunal because the death penalty has not been imposed, nor is it possible to impose it.

[Rubio] Is there any charge that could not be considered during this trial because it was not specified in the penal code?

[Amaro Salup] Well, from what I know about this case, this case was not submitted to our jurisdiction nor do I have any say in the matter as a judge. However, as president of the Supreme People's Tribunal of our nation's high judicial organ, I could say something and it is something I would like to make clear, if you would permit me to do so.

We have talked very much about the matter of concealing information, etc. During the talks I have had with the comrade attorney general, we arrived at the conclusion that this is not a jurisdictional matter. The matter of concealing information—which was highly publicized in the media—is not a technical question. This does not exist as a crime in the civil penal code nor the military one. I think it is worthwhile to clarify this because we have talked about the matter of concealment

very much and it is a very sensitive matter, as Comrades Escalona and De la Cruz have explained. However, I think it is important to clarify this. The crime of concealment of information does not exist in penal legislation.

[Rubio] Could this lead to some type of revision of the penal code?

[Amaro Salup] I would say that our codes and laws are under constant examination. There is one fact, and we all know it: Life moves much faster than the law. However, the law cannot be changed every day. I believe that our legislation is pretty complete. I am not going to talk in absolute terms by saying that it does not have problems, deficiencies, and limitations, but I think that our penal legislation is advanced.

You should remember that when, in 1988, Law 62 was established and modified the penal code, it incorporated a whole new series of changes that made the code more advanced, more up-to-date, more technical than before. Now, you can be certain that with any code we can come up with, life will advance faster than it and there will be actions not covered by that code.

On this matter I wanted to say something—which, by the way, is not related to Case No 1 nor Case No 2—about the penal problems, in a general sense, and legal problems, also in a general sense. I think—no, I do not think this, I believe it categorically—that our country is a country of rights. Our state has organized itself and institutionalized itself with the law. It has been improving all of its institutional characteristics by successive modifications of the law. I believe that our revolution's basic political principle is applying and observing the law.

I do not want to dwell on what Escalona, nor the comrade attorney general have said, but many times we tend to go on feelings. These feelings make us want things that the law does not allow. It is very difficult to explain these things. However, our state, which has been characterized by its respect for the law—and I think this is one of its greatest merits—cannot make a concession in this regard. No matter what feelings or desires we may have, we cannot violate the law. If the law imposes a certain conduct on us, then this is what we must abide by. I do not think that the Revolution would consent, under any circumstances, to common and everyday violations of the law. It would also not allow us, a judicial organ, to transgress the law. As I have told you, for me—and I believe I am repeating something that has already been said, this is not an original idea of mine—the revolution has this principle of observing the law as a matter of political principle. This is something that guides our conduct.

[Dimas] This is what I was going to ask. Moral or political considerations could not be taken into account at the time of this trial.

[Amaro] I could even say this. The prosecutor or prosecutors, not the prosecutor but prosecutors [corrects himself, repeats] and judges, are human beings like anyone else. We have feelings and make ethical and moral assessments on a number of matters. Our feelings even make us want to take drastic measures in cases that clash with and disgust the consciousness of our people. Nevertheless, we must be subject to the law because this is a principle of state organization we cannot ignore. If not, we would have chaos and anarchy. If not, anyone could do whatever he wanted, disregarding and forgetting the law. I believe that the law is something important. As Comrade Escalona was saying, which country in the world has subjected its officials to trials in such a strict way as we have our interior minister and other high-ranking officers of our Armed Forces and our MININT?

[Pita] Dr Amaro, I would like to ask a question regarding precisely what you are talking about, and I believe what you are saying is very reasonable. The law is logically our instrument. It is the way we can measure the behavior of those who infringe it. At the same time, is it possible that our laws—because everything is in constant movement and change—can turn into straitjackets that foresee behavior that was unforeseeable, let's say, 10 years ago.

I am thinking about this because when our code was created it was unthinkable that a general and hero of the Republic could get involved in drug trafficking activities and would have had to be executed—that is, this crime was only conceivable for a farmer who would traffick an arroba, or less than an arroba of marijuana, for example. I was thinking about all this at the same time that I was listening to you because I remembered something I heard today.

Regardless of the magnitude or the seriousness, especially in the political and moral sense, of the crimes of the three figures who have been tried and sentenced during the course of these years—well, the last one has not been sentenced yet but is about to be—such as Luis Orlando Dominguez, Diocles Torralba, and now Jose Abrantes Fernandez—who eventually, if the request made by the prosecution is granted by the tribunal and 20 years are imposed on him—the three of them will receive the same penalty in terms of years of imprisonment.

People who are not involved in these judicial analyses were asking if the law that considered these three cases in the same way with a similar penalty is absolutely valid.

[Amaro] I will say something. First, the three actions have their own characteristics. They are crimes of a different nature. I believe that in the case of Luis Orlando Dominguez the charge was embezzlement and something related to currencies. In the case of Diocles Torralba, there was also improper use of financial and material resources, something like that. In this case, other crimes of improper use of financial and material resources, abuse of his post, and negligence in service were charged.

A sentence is implicit in each crime—that is, each crime has a minimum and a maximum sentence. The prosecutors' request and the tribunal's decision lie between those limits. A circumstance apparently—and I purposely say apparently—makes the behavior the same. It is the maximum sentence. We could reach an absurd conclusion. What absurd conclusion could we reach? Well, that in one case we would have to impose 20 years, in the other case 30, in the other 40, and so on, to establish distinctions between one crime and another based on the length of the sentence. I do not believe this is possible. For example, in the case of Abrantes, the sentence requested was 26 years and it was reduced to 20 because of this limit. Now, let's say that the maximum sentence was 30 years imprisonment. Then, perhaps, Diocles Torralba could have been sentenced to 30 years. Perhaps Luis Orlando Dominguez could have been sentenced to 30 years or the same could happen in other cases. That is, a case of a serious violent robbery could also be sentenced to 30 years imprisonment. So, based on this, they would be equal. In reality, they are not equal. It is a maximum sentence that could be 20, 25, 30 years. But it would never be, for example, the absurd case we used to have with the Code of Social Defense of serving consecutive sentences. They even had their top level at a certain time. We can reach the absurdity, the judicial and human absurdity of sentences such as the ones in the United States, for example, in which an individual is sentenced to 200 years of imprisonment or after being sentenced to life in one case, the individual is sentenced to two more life sentences for other matters.

This becomes absurd. I think that this, as well as a sanction of 20 years imprisonment, is not an easy thing.

[Rubio] So then, the number of years, or the same sentences, do not mean that the crimes are equal.

[Amaro Salup] Absolutely. Just think, there are crimes that.... [changes thought] Well, let us imagine that in the penal code, we have different degrees of sanctions: 1-3 years, 2-5 years, 3-8 years, 8-15 years, and 15-20 years imprisonment. However, these are for different crimes. You could have a case in which a man commits a crime punishable by a sentence of 3-8 years. In a different case, a different person can commit a different crime and also receive a sanction of 3-8 years imprisonment. You also have to take into account that our legislation acknowledges a series of circumstances of attenuation and aggravation of responsibilities. These are factors that play a role in the determination of the plea, on behalf of the prosecutor, and in the decision by the tribunal. There are things in mens' lives that cannot be forgotten.

For example, in this case, I remember, we are dealing with someone who had committed heroic acts. Can this be forgotten simply because he went wrong during a small part of his life and broke the law? Can we forget the heroic actions he did while in service of the fatherland? Can his entire life be erased like this and can we simply say: I will only go by what he has done today? These are factors which must also be taken into consideration. The prosecutor, when he makes his plea, and the defense, when he gives his rebuttal, and the tribunal, when it decides, must take this into account.

[Pita] If Comrade Dimas would permit me, I would like to move on to a different area for just a minute. Something that many people are interested in, according to the information published this morning, is the number of unauthorized economic activities committed by the MININT under the authorization of its minister, Abrantes. This information appeared in the prosecutor's pleas. It is obvious that, for all the people of Cuba, this ministry has always been a symbol of the most glorious traditions of defense, struggle, protection, national security, and the physical and territorial integrity of the Cuban nation. Now this has turned out to be something that has been very painful, but it seems that it is the result of a distortion process, a process of institutional deformation. I also remember a phrase, although I cannot remember its origin, but, if memory serves, the commander in chief himself once told them that this ministry should be a shining example of purity, it should be immaculate. It should be well above the rest. I would like to hear Minister Escalona's views, knowing that he has been so close to the entire process of the investigations. I would like him to elaborate a bit on this phenomenon that, I think, confirms a recent and sad deformation of that institution.

[Escalona] Yes, evidently, this deformation is present. It has exploded now in the MININT. This is an important element to keep in mind, because, if you ask for my personal view, I think that, aside from the matter of having a link to drug trafficking, Abrantes' actions, which led to the corruption of an important group of MININT officers, deserves the death penalty—that is, if we were to let our emotions go.

In a report to the third PCC Congress, Fidel gave an entire explanation of what the MININT's role should be. He said that the MININT is responsible for the difficult task of controlling, confronting, and correcting anything that has not been adjusted or that does not correspond to the adequate social behavior. The ministry is responsible for people who speed in their vehicles and even those who cross a street without paying attention to the traffic light. It is also responsible for those who promote disturbances, rob, and even kill—although fortunately the danger index in our nation is very low.

This is why the conduct of the MININT combatants must be impeccable, unstained, and of a singular and special neatness because they represent the law, authority, morality, respect for their compatriots, and the values of the socialist state.

Nobody has been hated more or will be hated more than those opposed to the revolution, the antisocial individuals, and criminals. Nobody will be noted more, nobody other than them will be slandered. This is why, completely aware of their noble and dedicated role, they will always be demanding of themselves. They will strongly

fight against all signs of convenience, corruption, vanity, disregard of the people and their values, and everything that could lead to conditions that favor the enemy of envy and biting slander.

An enlightening example of the spirit and behavior of the MININT men and women took place recently when they decided to hand to the People's Government organs in the provinces health, sports, and recreational installations for the use of the population. They had been built during the 5-year period for the needs of the institution.

We all left the third congress with this impression and with the specific guidance given by Fidel. I have to say that the handing over of these resources to the people was not a spontaneous decision made by the MININT leadership organs. It was a decision made by the party leadership that felt there was a situation that notably distinguished the members of the MININT from workers and the most humble people, the normal people of our country. There was an exceptional situation in our country. In a few words, the watchword was: no privileges to the MININT.

Abrantes assumed the leadership of the ministry. Abrantes was not capable of fulfilling this directive. This is why we were saying at first—it would be too long to explain—that Abrantes put cronyism, friendship, and socialism [as heard] before principles. This was fulfilled in the places where the commander in chief said it had to be done, in Guantanamo, Las Tunas, and some other provinces. But new differences were created. The difference between the MININT's behavior and this directive of no privilege for the MININT was not fulfilled.

Abrantes was aware that he was not capable of fulfilling this. There was no austerity, no discretion, no modesty. Abrantes began to struggle to attain this, to hide everything that could tarnish the image, to make it white, as you said because it was not white. A thirst for gold began there at the ministry, a thirst for dollars. In this way, they made up a number of activities that had nothing to do with the responsibilities of the ministry. They obtained additional income by imposing conditions on certain enterprises created for this, received income from customs, received income from the Immigration and Naturalization Directorate, from an enterprise Abrantes created to get currency, and received the MC Department income. A multimillion [currency not specified] reserve was created.

People ask themselves, how is this possible? I do not know about other interior ministries of the world but an interior minister should obviously have a certain operational reserve for matter of intelligence, counterintelligence, or other activities that do not have to be announced to administrative, financial, and bank officials, and so forth, so these resources can be moved quickly. Using this, he created a number of liaisons and connections with Ministry of Steelworking Industry [SIME] corporations and other enterprises in the country that led him to conduct business with those incomes.

For example, Abrantes wanted to give the impression that he was the most fantastic interior minister ever in the world. He invested over $4 million in the purchase of 1,300 automobiles in 14 months over the amount of the country's economic plan and the commander in chief's reserves when he said the resources he had were not enough. Why? Because he wanted to give the impression of an exceptional ministry, of a ministry that was above other ministries.

In my opinion, it is obvious that there was a decaying process in him. He filled his head with smoke. He wanted to be a spectacular minister and he thought that this could be achieved with patrol cars, means, and resources and was not capable.... [changes thought] He took over the police that was subordinated to a vice minister. He began to take over a number of responsibilities that overwhelmed him. Evidently, in the testimony presented in the trial by General Pascual there is an indication, which his defense lawyer also used, about problems regarding Abrantes' psychological stability.

It is not that Abrantes is crazy, it is that he wanted to be minister of the interior, but he also wanted to be an important financier. He had to create I don't know what. He overwhelmed himself and got to the point where he had to confess to Gen Pascual, who was his first vice minister, that something was happening to him. He said he was beginning to forget things, that he could remember things from long ago, but not more recent matters. He then had a problem due to stress [preceding word in English] caused by tension and excessive work.

He created mechanisms for earnings, but for his own reserves and he freely used those reserves. It is true, the bulk of the investment reserves he was collecting was to purchase means for the ministry. However, he also wanted some of these means for himself and he enjoyed a number of things which none of us would have the opportunity of even aspiring to. He obtained them by having done these things.

Then, you have the problem of compartmentalization. I think that one of the things that we should solve, as a government, is to define the actual responsibilities of the MININT. How far can this ministry go? To what extent can it be considered a different organ with a great amount of power in its hands, or an organ that knows what everyone else is doing? They have now proven that the only thing they did not know was what they themselves were doing. We have to analyze the situation and, as the commander in chief has said, we are working on reconstructing the ministry. Not only is this being done from the point of view of substituting men, but also from the point of view of replacing work methods and forms so that a repetition of something like this will be impossible.

[Rubio] Regarding the links between the charges filed against the accused, how are they related?

[Escalona] I would like to say that they are related by.... [changes thought] For example, the director of Immigration and Naturalization Services invented a process to

obtain money that was supposed to go to the state, but actually went into the minister's reserve. The number two man in Immigration and Naturalization Services signed things in exchange for favors and gifts. He was responsible for things such as the departure of the famous pilot Jorge Daumy, who left the country three times by simply calling Tony de la Guardia. He also confessed that Tony de la Guardia used to give him many gifts.

In regard to customs, this is another matter. Here, another mechanism was created to channel funds to the minister of the interior's reserves. In the case of Carbonell and his famous ICA [expansion unknown] enterprise, this enterprise was created to look for dollars for the MININT. In other words, these are the men who made it possible for Abrantes to commit the crime of abusing privileges of post, these are the ones who made certain that Abrantes had all of this.

Evidently, and regrettably, a process of degeneration also began in regard to the first vice minister of the interior: Div Gen Pascual Martinez, who is from a different background—he is from the country and of more meager beginnings—and who has a beautiful history of revolutionary combat.

When making a cool analysis of Abrantes' life you would have to say that Abrantes, regrettably, did not participate in any revolutionary combat. He was not one of the rebels, he was not in hiding, he was abroad. He arrived back in the country and, as a result of circumstances, he became the chief of Fidel's escort. Later, he became the director of state security. The gravest risk Abrantes ever ran was accompanying the commander in chief in his tours around the world. This is the truth. There is a bit of a myth that his intelligence and his equipment stopped this or that. No! Our people stopped any attempts of aggression against our nation's leaders. Our people, who have always been willing, are the ones who stopped all of this. I hope they understand us in this meeting we wanted to have.

I was telling you regarding Pascual, that he maintained an attitude that was completely different than Gen Abrantes' attitude. From the very beginning, Pascual was willing to cooperate, understood, and, I think, was honestly sorry for what he had done because his position was completely different from Abrantes' position.

Now, going back to the old subject of hiding information, I want to say that there were many indications of what was going on. There was a lot of activity, on the part of radio counterintelligence, to find launches, radio transmitters, etc. Faced with all of this, Abrantes created a commission to investigate this matter.

He created a commission. However, he changed the focus of the commission. In the end, the commission became a commission that investigated the phenomenon of drug trafficking and not specifically the charges he had on hand relating to what was happening in Varadero and at the Varadero borderguard post—namely, the arrival of drug trafficking boats in that place. Although they did not act inside our territory, they were linked to it and this led to corruption of comrade borderguards. Some have been sanctioned and others have been relieved from their responsibilities, and so forth, because it was a corruption machine.

Therefore, I tell you that considering the possibility of his link to drug trafficking, his attitude as minister, the unfulfillment of what had been noted as an order in the third congress report—one of the most important documents that should rule the life of an organization—the decay and corruption he introduced in the ministry, which had also extended to the provinces where everyone wanted to obtain currency and businesses.... [changes thought] He also pushed the MININT away from dealing with and fulfilling its fundamental responsibilities.

If you start to think about business, currency, and obtaining resources, you forget about your true responsibilities. They are expressed in those indications given by Fidel. I do not know, it is impossible to know to what extent the behavior of the ministry's leadership could have had on our domestic order. It is possible that they, as well as other activities that are the responsibility of the MININT, could have been affected.

[Dimas] Minister, a question. In contrast to Case No 1 which had a lot of publicity, this Case No 2 is a trial that we could say had limited publicity. Why was this?

[Escalona] Dimas, I believe this is clear. I believe this because the one we were trying was the minister of interior and a group of officers who were important in the ministry's leadership. It is obvious to all that the MININT is a very sensitive organization because of the nature of what it manages, the types of problems it looks into, and because it has to do with intelligence, it has to do with counterintelligence, and a number of matters that could go beyond our country's borders. So, it is not possible to hold a public trial because we do not know what could come up, some of which are truly secrets the country has the right to keep. But it was not as limited either. Comrades from the leadership of the party, the ministry, FAR and MININT officers, etc, and a group of domestic journalists attended so they could experience what was happening there.

I believe our people will have more information. You have to consider that we are at the stage in which the prosecution made its request. The sentence to be imposed at the appropriate time will have to be assessed. Personally, I say that, unfortunately, it is not a death penalty. I am also part of the people, I feel and think as the people. But the laws are beyond that, of what we want and desire.

[Dimas] Do you have any more questions?

[Amaro Salup] I would like to say something else relating to what Comrade Escalona said about the trial. It may seem to some people that having held the trial with limited access to the public, or with no public at all, was

a capricious act. However, when a process or case affects matters relating to national security, as he said, it is evident that, when judging the minister of the interior, the first vice minister of the interior, and other high-ranking officials, matters of this nature can come out and so national security must be protected. So, to obey this legal aspect, it was decided that the trial would be held in this manner. It was not a capricious act on behalf of anyone, it was simply obeying the law.

[Escalona] Also, we must briefly say that the amount of publicity Case No 1 received was determined by the importance and significance that case had, as well as the implications that case had abroad. This was the first time we faced a problem involving drug trafficking. We had to openly show where the complexities and complicities of the case were. However, this also determined that our people, for days, did not work. What I mean is that the drama of Case No 1 had everyone in front of the television, but we need to work. The exceptional thing is actually the amount of publicity Case No 1 received. People cannot expect hours of television coverage whenever we have a slightly important trial. Besides, I don't think our comrades at the Cuban Institute of Radio and Television would agree with this either because we would wipe out its programming.

[Dimas] Did you want to add something, doctor?

[De la Cruz] Yes, I did. I would like to say something in defense of Case No 2's prosecutor. I want to explain something which could clarify things. In Case No 1, some of the accused, who were charged with abusing privileges of post, received much stricter sanctions than what was asked for in Case No 2, which was 10 years imprisonment. This is also related to Abrantes' economic manipulation, which Comrade Escalona explained and which I will, of course, not repeat.

Some of the accused in Case No 1, such as General Patricio de la Guardia, were charged with abusing privileges of post and received much stricter sanctions, in this case it was 30 years imprisonment. However, I think it should be made clear that the law regarding these military crimes permitted the request of 30 years imprisonment because, obviously, their jobs were being carried out under conditions of war in Angola. In this case, the minister of the interior and other officials were working in Cuba where we, obviously, do not have a war going on. Since we must abide by the law and all of our actions must reflect this, we could not ask for the same sanctions that were asked for a high-ranking officer who was under war conditions and whose responsibilities were greater. The sanctions cannot be the same for an official who was working in Cuba. This is what I wanted to say.

[Escalona] Let me say something. I know that some people are of the opinion that the prosecutor was not the minister, and that the death penalty was not going to be requested, and that this and that, etc. I want to say that it was a government decision and that I agree with the outcome of the trial. Also, the prosecutor, who is the chief of the FAR military prosecutor's office, carried out his duties brilliantly. I do not think that I could have done any better. He has daily experience that I do not have. In addition, he has great knowledge, responsibility, and seriousness. He studied the case with such care that I believe he deserves our people's congratulations for the way the trial was carried out and the way the facts were clarified.

This is all I have to say.

[Dimas] Well, I just hope that this program served to clear up some matters relating to Case No 2 of 1989. I would like to thank Doctors Escalona, Amaro, and De la Cruz for being here. I would also like to thank Felix and Gladys for being with us, and I would like to thank you, esteemed viewers, for giving us your time. Good night.

'Intense Controversies' Noted

FL3008212589 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 30 Aug 89

[Station commentary]

[Text] Since Case No 2 of 1989 was announced, it caused intense controversies, especially after the sentencing request made by the prosecution for each one of the accused was made known. Scrutiny was such that it brought about the special program carried by television Channel 6 on Monday [28 August, 29 August GMT time]. The program was very timely, enlightening, and illustrative of our socialist law. It was an inescapable referee of public discussions. Nevertheless, although controversies were considerably reduced in number and intensity after the program, they still continue.

Some are not convinced. It is not that we consider this harmful. On the contrary, we believe that during a very sensitive period for our people, the reaction has been to throw everything—from the Dominguez case to this last one—in the same bag of garbage and filth. This can be understood morally but not legally. We just learned this.

We want to highlight one thing about this entire process aside from the more or less fierce controversies: the confidence we should all have in revolutionary justice. Don't forget that these events are unprecedented in the revolution. If the current experience requires that certain steps be taken, nobody should have the least doubt that they will be taken. As it was said in the program, a civil or military penal code cannot be changed every day. If this lesson prompts it to be modified and even have it replaced by another one or others, nobody should have the slightest doubt that it will be done. Revolutionary justice will not hesitate to do so. It will simply be a faithful defender of the people's interests.

Train Accidents Investigated; Officials Ousted

FL3008161089 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 30 Aug 89

[Text] Serious and repeated violations committed by the crew of train No 20 caused the train accident which occurred on 4 August near the town of Aguica in Colon, Matanzas. As you will recall, two trains collided in that accident, the Camaguey-Havana train, train No 20, and the Havana-Sancti Spiritus train, [train No 41].

The special commission formed to investigate the accident has reported that among the violations that were noted are: omission of prior analysis with the crew [as heard], failure of the crew to pass preventive medical exams, continuous excessive speed throughout the trip, non-observance of signals, and improper use of a track. It was determined that all these factors caused train No 20 to collide with train No 41.

With regards to the investigation of the train accident which occurred on 19 August in Guantanamo—although the special commission formed to investigate the accident has not finished its work—it is also reported that, because his responsibility for the slackening of discipline in the railroad system, Railroad Union Director [title as heard] Gerald Simon Escalona has been removed from his post. Juan Castellanos Torres, director of the East Central Division [of the Cuban Railroad Enterprise] was demoted; and administrative sanctions were applied on four other leaders and officials of said division who are the main persons responsible for order and discipline. (Rafael Caldentey Aguilar), director of the East Division, was also demoted; and Leonardo Selles Manchado, director of the Guantanamo unit in the East Division, was substituted.

Jamaica

Opposition Calls for Minister's Resignation

FL3008133589 Bridgetown CANA in English 0017 GMT 29 Aug 89

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Aug 28, CANA—Jamaica's Industry and Commerce Minister Claude Clarke has found himself in the middle of a political controversy here with the opposition Jamaica Labour Party [JLP] calling for his resignation. The JLP said it felt that the current minister should be replaced by someone who "can devote himself full-time to reverse the deterioration of the industrial sector."

Backing his claim with statistics, the opposition spokesman on industry and commerce, Douglas Vaz said that trade results for the first quarter of this year continued to deteriorate "alarming." Vaz said the trade deficit had worsened by U.S. 165 million dollars. Exports had fallen by U.S. 2 million dollars while imports had increased by U.S. 161 million dollars.

"These worsening economic indicators and the continued dramatic decline of the Jamaica dollar demand the replacement of the present minister of industry and commerce," the JLP said in a statement.

Clarke has also been under fire since announcing a motor vehicle policy earlier this year. Under the policy, a car dealer's quota will be determined by the number of orders he receives from the various sub-sectors and the general public. Formerly, dealers were allocated a certain quantity of cars from which consumers would buy. Clarke has been also in the news lately following revelations that he had returned money given to his election campaign by one of the island's largest auto dealers, Donald Panton.

In an interview in the Jamaican RECORD newspaper, Panton said that the minister had approached him for contributions to his electoral fund to which he gave 60,000 Jamaican dollars. Acknowledging that he had received a cheque for 35,000 Jamaican dollars from the minister, Panton said he was still owed 25,000.

Speaking at a local meeting of the People's National Party on Sunday, Clarke in an apparent response to Panton's charges said that if he still owed money he would pay it back with interest. He said that although people will try, nobody was going to get him, "out of the race." "I am here to stay," he declared.

Only last week the local media reported that a 250,000 Jamaican dollar contract had been put out for Clarke's assassination. Minister of National Security K.D. Knight has reported that a threat was made against a minister of government, but refused to name the minister. Clarke has declined to comment on this issue.

The opposition Jamaica Labour Party has accused government of creating a smoke screen and argued that it is part of an attempt to set the stage to impose "emergency measures."

El Salvador

Army Colonel Discusses FMLN Disabled, Conflict

PA3008194889 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 28 Aug 89

[Report on statements by Colonel Rene Emilio Ponce, chairman of the Army Joint Chiefs of Staff, on 28 August; place not given—passages within quotation marks are recorded]

[Text] Colonel Rene Emilio Ponce, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, today stated that he considered it feasible that the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] war disabled could leave the country, but warned that the FMLN must show gestures of goodwill. He said that one such gesture would be to end their sabotage of the electrical system. On this topic, Col Ponce said:

[Ponce] "I do not believe that statements by Colonel Montano [Deputy Security Minister Col Orlando Montano] were that specific. The Armed Forces will back the government on political decisions it sees fit to make—in this case, with regard to the war disabled, who, one way or another, are considered criminals. There must be some legal way to deal with this. We also believe that, as in the past, the government could do this as a goodwill gesture to seek peace in the country and as a gesture to humanize the conflict—something we have also done in the past. Perhaps we should ask the FMLN to also show such gestures of goodwill and try to bring peace to the country. For example, the FMLN could suspend sabotage of public transport, such as the buses. The FMLN could also suspend sabotage of the electrical system and telephone junction boxes—those actions that go against the people. As military men, we are not asking anything of them, but we do ask that the FMLN give clear indications of wanting to humanize the conflict through gestures of goodwill, that they show an interest in starting a dialogue to find peace in our country."

Concerning the murder of a student, identified as Miguel Ernesto Miranda from the Ricaldoni School, which was blamed on an Army soldier, Col Ponce said that this is being investigated:

[Ponce] "We are also concerned with this case, because it was due to the excess of an Atlacatl Battalion soldier; we are investigating it. You may rest assured that the soldier remains under arrest [words indistinct].

[Reporter] "Colonel, you recently mentioned that the guerrillas may have surface-to-air missiles. Last week there was a report of a helicopter that had been damaged. Could the guerrillas already be using these missiles?

[Ponce] "No, of course not. The surface-to-air missiles—the guerrillas call them arrows and they are of Soviet manufacture—completely destroy aircraft. In other words, they have great destructive power. The missile is guided by a heat sensing device that tracks the heat aircraft engines give off. According to the information we have, the FMLN already has these missiles, but has not used them because they are awaiting authorization from the Sandinist government. When will this be? Well, it is the Sandindists who will order the FMLN when to use these missiles.

[Reporter] "What about the delivery of weapons to the FMLN by Nicaragua? A short time ago, the Salvadoran Government protested this. Have you been able to detect over the past few days any additional deliveries of weapons from Nicaragua?

[Ponce] "The Sandinists are used to sending logistical support to the FMLN by air, land, and sea. We do not have any detailed information on whether there have been any recent deliveries. However, judging by the ammunition and weapons the FMLN has, we can safely conclude that they have received some supplies."

Evaluating the FMLN's current military behavior, Col Ponce said:

[Ponce] "We know the FMLN is avoiding clashes with our soldiers, as they are only looking at ways to carry out terrorist acts. We cannot rule out that they might try to make some important strike, because so far they have only carried out terrorist acts that do not show any military capacity. They do, however, show advances in terrorist techniques in the use of [words indistinct].

[Reporter] "What about Armed Forces reports on the Rey Plan, to fight subversion? What results have you obtained and how would you describe them?

[Ponce] "I want to take this opportunity to report that we have compared the figures on casualties inflicted thus far this year by the Army on the FMLN, which show that casualties are twice what they were during the same period in 1988. I am referring to the number of rebels killed, wounded, arrested, and [words indistinct]. The number of weapons and amount of explosives seized from the FMLN has tripled. Therefore, the Armed Forces struggle against the FMLN has been more effective. I also want to tell you that this year we have neutralized three offensives launched by subversives at the national level. All these actions seek to defend our democratic system, bring peace and calm to our people, and neutralize the FMLN threats and actions."

"In view of its inability to grow and attain victories in rural areas, the FMLN has centered its actions in the city. They are carrying out an urban war, as they call it, which is basically an indiscriminate and [words indistinct] terrorism. An example is the case of a driver killed in a cowardly manner in Ivu neighborhood to frighten other drivers. This is a condemnable action. We are determined to punish and send to justice all government officials who exceed their authority. We hope the FMLN will do the same, but since they are an outlawed group, they do not take such measures. The Rey Plan we have implemented in San Salvador has neutralized a limitless urban war, which had to be avoided [words indistinct].

From this point of view, we have attained and will continue to attain the goals of the Rey Plan."

[Reporter] "Do you expect any important changes in the general order of the day?"

[Ponce] "No, I do not think so."

Guatemala

Rebels Attack Power Grid, Electricity Rationed

PA3008164789 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 29 Aug 89 p 2

[Text] Four sticks of dynamite placed by a terrorist unit yesterday at 0033, shook zone 18 residents and destroyed INDE's [National Institute of Electrification] second 230-kw transmission tower in the Guate-North Plant in Colonia Las Ilusiones. The destruction of the plant has affected the entire country since there was no electricity coming from Chixoy.

Marta Rodas, area resident, said that a powerful explosion was heard at the time and was followed by three other explosions that were not as strong. These explosions toppled the transmission tower located 100 meters from the main plant.

The tower's four 35-meter legs broke off and the top fell to one side onto a deserted fenced area. The tower area is fenced off because the high tension cables are very dangerous.

Electricity coming from the Chixoy project was automatically cut when the tower fell. Officials in charge of the plant immediately reported what had happened.

Several INDE and electricity company units arrived at the site to verify the damage. They noted that damage was significant and that the supply of electricity was going to be seriously jeopardized.

Immediately, steps were taken to supply the country with electricity from the Jurun, Marinala, Aguacapa, and Los Esclavos plants, as well as from the INDE-EEGSA thermoelectric system.

More than 100 workers from INDE and the electricity company arrived yesterday morning to start repairs on the plant.

Production Manager Thomas Henry and Chief Operations Division Luis Herrera indicated yesterday that they were trying to find a way to prop up the tower that fell inside the plant grounds. If this is achieved, electricity will be renewed speedily; if not it could take several days.

They urged citizens to ration electricity for the time being. There will be electricity cuts throughout the country until repairs are made.

As for the tower, it was reported that it was damaged beyond repair.

INDE Director Rene de Leon Escribano toured the sabotaged area aboard a helicopter to assess the damage.

De Leon said that some electricity is temporarily being received through the Guatemala-El Salvador interconnection line, however, rationing is still necessary.

Neither area residents nor officials in charge of the plant were able to determine who is responsible for the sabotage.

They heard explosions that are believed to have been detonated from a distance, which is why they were unable to see who the terrorists were. It was learned that the National Army and the National Police arrived at the site to determine what devices the terrorists used.

URNG Claims Responsibility

PA3008195789 Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 29 Aug 89 p 11

[Text] The Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity, URNG, has claimed responsibility for the 28 August sabotage of a tower transmitting electric power from the Chixoy hydroelectric plant.

This was announced by an anonymous caller last night who, speaking on behalf of the URNG, said it was responsible for the action.

"The urban commando units of the central region staged today's (yesterday) sabotage," the anonymous voice said, and immediately hung up.

As a result of the sabotage, power outages continued last night. Rene De Leon Escribano [director of the National Institute of Electrification] said the outages are part of the electric power rationing that will continue until tonight.

Kidnapped Student's Body Found in Guatemala City

PA3108042489 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2301 GMT 30 Aug 89

[Text] Guatemala City, 30 Aug (DPA)—The local press reported today that a former law student who had been kidnapped has been found murdered in a district in northern Guatemala City. The press notes this is but one more instance in the wave of violence that has gripped Guatemala during the past few weeks.

The body of Victor Alfonso Pomas, 30, who was kidnapped on 28 August, had knife wounds and his ears were stuffed with cotton.

In another development, the Rujunel Junam Council of Ethnic Communities has issued a communique demanding the return of seven kidnapped university students and condemning the death of nine peasants who were members of the Civil Self-Defense Patrols in San Cristobal Verapaz, in northern Guatemala. According to a report issued by the Army at the time, the nine peasant members of the Civil Self-Defense Patrols were killed when a military patrol mistook them for guerrillas.

Moreover, the Managerial Sector's Information Office [Oficina de Informacion del Sector Empresarial—OFISEM] today released statistics showing that violence has increased 1,000 percent in Guatemala during the past few weeks.

According to OFISEM, compared to 1988, the number of missing persons has increased 600 percent, subversion 550 percent, drug trafficking 200 percent, crime 140 percent, thefts 83 percent, and murders 67 percent.

Honduras

Azcona Discusses Refugees, IMF, Other Issues

PA3008234089 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1145 GMT 25 Aug 89

[Report on interview with President Jose Azcona Hoyo by Julio Armando Valdes at the Honduran University auditorium, Tegucigalpa, on 24 August—passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] [Valdes] President Jose Azcona made several remarks at the Honduran University auditorium, after the closing ceremony of the Central American transportation ministers' meeting. First we asked him about the movement of Nicaraguan refugees toward the Nicaraguan capital.
[Azcona in progress] ". . . yes, I think toward the capital. We received a letter the day before yesterday from three U.S. senators on the possibility of arranging a meeting of young Nicaraguan fighters with their relatives to find a way for them to return home. We are going to support all initiatives and actions to help the reconciliation of the Nicaraguan family."

[Valdes] Can we say U.S. President Bush is meddling when he repeats that the contras must leave Honduras following the Nicaraguan elections?
[Azcona] "No. President Bush's ideas are one thing, and meddling is another. He is entitled to think what he wants. In this case, the United States is very skeptical about the Nicaraguan democratic process. It is up to the Sandinist government to dispel those doubts. The important thing is that agreements are kept and that Nicaragua takes steps to expedite and implement the contras' demobilization."

[Valdes] Deputy Carlos Sosa said that some officials are involved in the drug trade in our country.
[Azcona] "I did not listen to him. Since he presides over the Congress Commission on Drug Trafficking, and if there are Honduran officials, they must be [words indistinct]."

[Valdes] Are you waiting for the report from the National Congress Commission to take legal steps through the corresponding agencies?
[Azcona] "We are waiting. I have given the commission all that is within my power. The commission members asked for funds, and I gave them funds. They asked for special documents, and we provided them. If they discovered that officials are involved in drug trafficking activities, their duty is to accuse them. They must send a report so we can indict them."

[Valdes] Businessmen and economists, like Edwin Rosethal, criticized the treasury minister's attitude in the negotiations with private international banks.
[Azcona] "We do not mean to say that we achieved a great deal. All of us know that loans from international lending organizations and from friendly governments make up the largest percentage of our foreign debt. Our debt to private banks corresponds to a smaller part of the foreign debt. Anything that is worked out always benefits the country. Two commercial banks canceled the interest on the debt and readjusted the payments on the principal. This is always beneficial and represents a step forward. That is my goal."

[Valdes] How is the Nicaraguan suit against Honduras at the International Court of Justice going?
[Azcona] "The Nicaraguans will not submit a report on 19 September. The suit has been suspended. We are awaiting... [changes thought]. As far as Honduras is concerned, there will be no reason to continue with the suit after December."

[Valdes] The National Reconciliation Commission has submitted a report to you as president. It is also said that the national dialogue was just a dream in this country.
[Azcona] "Let me say that we have a national dialogue every day. It has not been a dream; it has yielded good results in Honduras. That is why Honduras is a country with fewer problems, or has settled its problems in the best way possible, not just in Central America, but in the entire American hemisphere. No teachers' or labor strike here has lasted more than 1 day. We have held talks with business sectors and workers. In sum, we have held a running dialogue. The dialogue here is not an artificial thing or something that is enacted into law; it is a daily routine. We are always performing that daily routine. We have done so throughout my almost 4 years of government, and will continue to do so. Yesterday, I met with the teachers' sector. On Monday, we sent our labor minister on an urgent mission in the city of San Pedro to hold talks with the Cerveceria Hondurena Company and the labor union. Yesterday, I talked to the union president of the Honduran Social Security Institute.

Talks are an ongoing thing, not an artificial thing. This is not just a matter of holding a meeting and having a few drinks. That may be part of the formality, but the fundamental thing is an unfaltering willingness to hold talks with all sectors. No one can tell me that talks have failed in Honduras or that this government has not conducted talks because this government has obtained positive results."

[Valdes] Pressures from the IMF and the World Bank will continue. Will the letter of intent be signed?
[Azcona] "I do no think so. However, we will continue paying the IMF so that we will not be blacklisted. This

way we leave the path open for future negotiations. We are advancing in this respect. We are going to prove that we do not need a devaluation or new taxes to get the economy going. We are certainly going to keep a lid on spending, as we have been doing despite criticism from the opposition party, which has to say something because its goal is to win the next elections."

[Valdes] What are the basic or fundamental reasons why the letter of intent will not be signed?
[Azcona] "We are not going to sign it because we hit a snag when it came time to assess import tax based on the value of the lempira with regards to the CETRA [Transferable Certificate for Access to Foreign Exchange] or on the value of the dollar to the CETRA. That means that if the CETRA is worth 3.20 or 3.10 [lempiras], commercial invoices for $200, $500, or whatever, would be multiplied by 3.10 or by another specific amount, based on a Central Bank report for the week in question. The tax would then be levied on this amount, meaning that the taxes would be collected ad valorem. This in real terms amounts to accepting a devaluation. We could not, and will not, do that, and do not think this will be necessary because we will be keeping some control over foreign exchange and over public spending. This is not what our traditional adversaries are saying. But, if, God forbid, they were to win the elections, I think they would squander the country's money."

Azcona Advocates Contra-Relatives Meeting

PA3108000889 Paris AFP in Spanish 0529 GMT 26 Aug 89

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 25 Aug (AFP)—President Jose Azcona today said he advocates a meeting between the contras stationed in Honduras and their relatives living in Nicaragua, which was proposed by three U.S. senators as a means of expediting the contras' demobilization.

Azcona said he recently received a letter from these senators asking him to sponsor this meeting between the rebels and their relatives.

In addition, Azcona was elated by the fact that some of the Nicaraguan refugees who have set up camp east of Honduras have begun to return to their home countries encouraged by the Tela agreements signed on 7 August, which called for the contras' demobilization.

The Honduran president did not specify the date or the procedure established for the meeting between the contras and their relatives.

Nicaragua

Ortega Submits Media Reform Bill to Assembly

PA3008201389 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 2325 GMT 29 Aug 89

[Text] Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega submitted a media reform bill to the National Assembly today. Ortega wants the unbalanced Supreme Electoral Council [CSE] to intervene in the independent media and to decide what political propaganda we can transmit during the election campaign.

Likewise, Ortega proposed the creation of an ethics code so that no candidate can slander another. However, we must recall that it has been the Sandinists themselves who, through their media, have slandered and persecuted opposition leaders. Despite all the reforms, Ortega's bill clearly grants all powers over the media regarding the election to the CSE, and leaves all authority over the media under Interior Minister Tomas Borge.

Those who uttered slander in the past do not want to hear any claims now and that is why they are resorting to an ethics code.

Vice President Says Elections Need Financing

PA3108012089 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 26 Aug 89

[Text] Vice President Sergio Ramirez said countries demanding clean elections in Nicaragua should give financial support to the electoral process. During the inauguration of the 12th National Forum of Nicaraguan Students, Dr Ramirez said there are problems in financing the elections even though the Supreme Electoral Council requirements are minimal compared to requirements in other countries.

It is precisely at this time that Nicaragua should not face alone the total cost of the elections, which amount to $12.5 million, the vice president said. This is a heavy burden in view of the country's economic situation, Ramirez added. It is necessary to bear in mind that according to the new electoral law the government has to finance part of the expenses of the political parties' electoral campaign, he said.

Borge Comments on Panama, Drug Trafficking

PA3008151689 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 29 Aug 89

[Text] On 28 August Interior Minister Tomas Borge Martinez presided over a ceremony commemorating the Matagalpa insurrection. He reiterated Nicaragua's solidarity with Panama, which is currently being attacked for defending its autonomy and territorial integrity. He said: What is important is for the Panamanian people to join in defending their nation, as they are doing.

Borge said that Nicaragua is not involved in drug trafficking, and proof of that is that it is a poor country. We are enemies to the death of drug trafficking, because it is not only an immoral but also a criminal practice which is opposed to our principles.

He confirmed that contra groups are trying to get to border posts to return to Honduras, while the government is trying to persuade them to lay down their weapons as soon as possible.

He also criticized the infamies and calumnies reported by LA PRENSA regarding the number of jails in the country.

Borge reiterated that the Sandinist National Liberation Front will announce its plan in early September.

Human Rights Group Responds to Borge's Attacks

PA3108005489 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 2300 GMT 25 Aug 89

[Text] The Nicaraguan Permanent Human Rights Commission, CPDH, has just publicly replied to attacks from the Interior Ministry. On 22 August 1989 Interior Minister Tomas Borge Martinez granted a news conference at a meeting he held with the delegation head of the International Red Cross Committee. Using foul language and showing a lack of seriousness, Borge made false charges against our humanitarian organization, particularly attacking and threatening Lino Hernandez Triguero, a member, leader, and executive secretary of this commission. Borge said that the CPDH is responsible for the lack of economic aid to Nicaragua from European countries. He also accused us of being a CIA instrument, and of changing the number of prisoners. He also claimed that members of this organization have participated in prisoner escapes and have helped them join the rebel forces fighting against the government. In that regard, we regret the attempts to use the prestige of the International Red Cross Committee as a framework to attack our humanitarian organization. Since the foundation of this commission on 20 April 1977, all of its actions have been conducted within the law and have been limited to promoting and defending the Nicaraguan people's human rights and reporting the situation of those rights inside and outside the country. The rashness and lack of seriousness with which the Nicaraguan Government has been handling such a delicate matter as the country's political prisoners—which involves thousands of people—is obvious. Only this year, Commander Daniel Ortega has publicly admitted three different figures on the number of political prisoners, all surpassing the figure mentioned by Commander Tomas Borge, who mentioned 1,440 prisoners at the news conference. Various governments in the world have conditioned their economic aid to Nicaragua on the deterioration of Nicaragua's human rights status, which is not only based on our reports, but on reports from the most important and prestigious international human rights organizations. The false accusations made by Commander Tomas Borge are part of a harassment campaign against members and employees of this commission. Among those actions we can mention: death threats from members of State Security in the 5th region to prevent CPDH officials from meeting with peasant families whose human rights were violated; pressure and threats of jail or death by State Security officials against CPDH officials so that they will become informers; illegal appropriation of properties owned by CPDH Treasurer Nicolas Bolanos Geyer and his relatives; painting of all exterior walls of CPDH Administrator Luz Marina Gutierrez Rios's house with offensive propaganda in favor of the Sandinist National Liberation Front; and defamatory and slanderous campaigns in the progovernment media by well-known columnists who are hired by the Sandinists. To this we must add other actions such as the April 1988 personal attack by Commander Tomas Borge against the CPDH Secretary Jose Castillo Osejo, injuring Castillo on the forehead and mouth. It is totally false that former prisoner Erasmo Baltodano, now a member of the State Security, was helped in joining an insurgent group. Baltodano came to our offices in January 1988, to lodge a formal complaint that he had been taken out of jail to be murdered. He had managed to escape, and asked for help in obtaining political asylum. Our office offered to present him to the authorities to clarify his case, but he refused. The report is in our files and this complaint was received by one of our lawyers who—obviously—Commander Borge confuses with a foreigner.

We feel that the promise of allowing foreign human rights organizations to regularly visit State Security jails is a positive sign in view that access by these organizations has been denied during the 10 years of Sandinist rule. We demand that officers belonging to our commission also be allowed to visit these jails. To end, we reiterate the following resolutions made at the second Latin American Congress of Human Rights, recently held in Managua: Underground State Security facilities in Managua not be used as jails; known as (El Chipote). An official list of political prisoners and their locations be published. The agreemenents undertaken in Esquipulas II of the freeing of all those jailed for political and common crimes be immediately complied with by a broad amnesty, including the 39 former members of the defunct National Guard, in accordance with the recommendations made by the Inter-American Human Rights Commission and Americas Watch.

Issued in Managua on 25 August 1989
[Signed] Eduardo Rivas Gasteazoro, Jose Castillo Osejo, Cesar Vivas Rojas, Norman Candera Lacayo, Digna Zamora de Correa, Andres Zuniga, Lino Hernandez, and Nicolas Bolanos Geyer.

EPS Soldiers Kill 2 Contras During Clash

PA3108044889 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 29 Aug 89 p 2

[Report by M. M. Gonzalez]

[Text] Dipilto, Nueva Segovia—Two counterrevolutionaries, among them a leader nicknamed "Chis Chis," were killed on August 27 during a clash with an EPS [Sandinist People's Army] exploration patrol, which also

seized an important document involving a PLI [Independent Liberal Party] leader in Ocotal.

The contras, who were killed in the El Volcan border area in Dipilto Municipality, were identified as Jaime Gomez Martin, alias "Chis Chis," who was a member of the FDN [Nicaraguan Democratic Force] special services corps. He joined the contras in 1983 and was a native of Dipilto.

The other contra, Francisco Flores Blandon, alias "El Caminante," joined the counterrevolution in 1983. Captured by the Sandinist authorities in 1985, he was later released, and he returned to his criminal activities.

The EPS soldiers seized military equipment and documents that were in "Chis Chis"' possession. Among the documents was a letter from Jose Castellon Rocha, alias "El Ciego," the PLI's departmental secretary in Ocotal. In the letter he said that he had been arrested through the betrayal of a former counterrevolutionary.

Two EPS Soldiers Killed in Contra Attack

PA3108031289 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0132 GMT 31 Aug 89

[Text] The Interior Ministry's Public Relations Office has just reported to us that at 0600 on 29 August, at the Mongallo Village on the Atlantic coast, counterrevolutionaries ambushed a station wagon belonging to the Puerto Cabezas Sandinist Police, which was returning from Tiuna. This counterrevolutionary terrorist act left two Sandinist Peoples' Army comrades dead. They were First Lieutentant Adolfo Vallecillo and Military Prosecutor Hector Chow. The counterrevolutionaries wounded Sandinist policemen Ramon Meza Chow and Jose Alberto Ramirez. Patriotic military service members William Mora, who is a youth from Puerto Cabezas, and Eric Rocha from Managua, were also wounded.

The counterrevolutionaries burned the station wagon belonging to the Puerto Cabezas Sandinist Police, according to information supplied by Captain Isaac Rizo, Atlantic coast region police chief.

Panama

Ritter Says U.S. Using OAS To Discredit Noriega

PA3008183189 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1731 GMT 30 Aug 89

[Text] Panama City, 30 Aug (DPA)—Panamanian Foreign Minister Jorge Eduardo Ritter said today he had "the impression that the United States was trying to distract the continent's attention," with its call for an OAS Permanent Council session, during which it plans to show evidence of General Manuel Antonio Noriega's alleged involvement with drug trafficking.

Ritter said that his government is discussing whether Washington's proposal complies with the OAS Charter to see if this organization should convene to discuss a matter that does not involve a controversy among two countries or a danger to international peace.

The official said that with this request, the Americans intend to stray from the problem of the aggression against Panama and is trying to focus the issue and the debate on discrediting the image of General Noriega.

Ritter added that, for now, he cannot reveal what Panama's "counterattack" will be, because all the information on meeting is yet to be received and consultations with other Latin American countries are being held.

During the OAS foreign ministers meeting on 24 August, Panamanian Government Representative Romulo Escobar Bethancourt denied the drug trafficking charges against General Noriega and he challenged the United States to show concrete evidence concerning those charges.

Says Words 'Distorted'

PA3008213189 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 2101 GMT 30 Aug 89

[Communique issued by the Foreign Ministry in Panama City on 30 August 1989]

[Text] The Panamanian Foreign Ministry informs the Panamanian people and international public opinion that statements made by Foreign Minister Jorge Eduardo Ritter have been altered, distorted, and presented out of context by foreign news agencies with the obvious goal of creating ill will against the Republic of Panama during these crucial moments for our nation.

Following his return to the country on the night of Saturday, 26 August, Foreign Minister Ritter was approached by a reporter who asked him about the possibility of other countries breaking diplomatic relations with Panama on 1 September. Foreign Minister Ritter said that breaking diplomatic relations as well as the withdrawal or recall for consultation of ambassadors are measures that a government, by sovereign decision, can use to express its disagreement with another government. These words were distorted and quoted out of context to create the impression that these represented a challenge to other governments.

In light of the upcoming agreement to form a government to lead our nation's destiny and to embody our ideals of national liberation through a full perfectioning of our independence, it is regrettable that certain news agencies and media presented have oddly interpreted statements by Foreign Minister Ritter, making them appear as an outburst when they actually represented a respectful recognition of the sovereign powers of the other nations.

The Foreign Ministry registers its indignation over the continuing irresponsible or intentionally damaging misrepresentation of Panama's reality by news services and

media that subordinate truth to the dictates of interests which are hostile to the Panamanian people's struggle for liberation.
[Dated] Panama, 30 August 1989

On U.S. Call for UN Meeting

PA3108014489 Panama City Radio Exitosa in Spanish 2200 GMT 30 Aug 89

[Text] Foreign Minister Jorge Ritter has pointed out that by asking for a meeting of the UN Security Council [as heard], the United States is trying to distract the attention of the Latin American countries, which should focus on the U.S. aggression against Panama. Here is a report by Carlos Anel Cordero.

[Begin recording] [Cordero] Foreign Minister Jorge Ritter has asserted that the national government has not yet made a decision regarding this situation and it cannot arrange for a counterattack because it is unaware of the nature of the meeting.

[Ritter] We are still receiving the information on the U.S. call to convene the OAS. We are studying whether the call abides by the rules of the OAS Charter; but, above all, whether it abides by the rules and charter regarding the question of whether it is possible for the organization to begin debate on a matter not involving a controversy between two states or situations that may endanger international peace and security.

I have the strong impression that the United States is trying to distract the continent's attention from where it should really be—that is, the U.S. aggression—and that it is trying to center the entire argument and debate on General Noriega. I think this is but one of the many tactics the United States has used and Panama will have to contend with it under this perspective and in this manner.

However, I think it is still too early to assert this. The call was made only yesterday and we are in the process of evaluating it at this moment. So, we cannot arrange for a counterattack if we do not know what the real nature of the meeting will be, what the approach will be, and if the Latin American countries are prepared to let the OAS serve as the place to discuss political problems of a country or for a country to revile the leaders of another country.

Therefore, we have to consult with the other Latin American countries before making a decision on what Panama will do about this this meeting.

[Cordero] Ritter said that, in view of the prospects of the installation of a new government, several countries have recalled their ambassadors for consultations, but this is not an indication that they will take any stronger action.

[Ritter] I have pointed out that we Panamanians may find ourselves in various situations. There are countries which, when faced with the installation of a new government, have recalled their ambassadors for consultations. I think other countries may do so too. I do not think the majority will take any action because these are internal Panamanian political processes which are not within [word indistinct] or the purview of other countries.

Now then, since Panama's situation has received so much publicity, I do not rule out the possibility that some of those countries which may be displeased with the installation of the new government will decide to express their displeasure in some way, and this may fundamentally be done by recalling their ambassadors for consultations. [end recording]

Group of 8, FRG Recall Ambassadors

PA3008182089 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1731 GMT 30 Aug 89

[Text] Panama City, 30 Aug (ACAN-EFE)—Diplomatic sources disclosed today that with the sole exception of Mexico, the Latin American countries of the "Group of Eight" have recalled their ambassadors to Panama for consultations in view of the worsening crisis in this country.

The latest "Group of Eight" ambassador to be recalled is Brazilian Ambassador Paulo Monteiro Lima who, according to a Brazilian Embassy spokesman, is "traveling this afternoon."

The "Group of Eight" is formed by Mexico, Colombia, Venezuela, Brazil, Argentina, Peru, and Uruguay. Panama is also a group member, but has been excluded from the meetings and consultations for more than a year.

A European diplomat has reported that FRG Ambassador Gotz von Boehmer will be leaving Panama tomorrow. The diplomat told ACAN-EFE that the trip is "a form of protest over the suspension of a cultural event sponsored by the FRG on 24 August."

Georg Birgelen, first secretary of the FRG Embassy, confirmed the trip to ACAN-EFE, adding that "we leave to each person's imagination" the interpretation of the departure of Von Boehmer, who will be in his country for "3 or 4 weeks on vacation."

A concert sponsored by the FRG Embassy was cancelled at the last minute on 24 August. It was to be held at Panama City's Carmen Church, known for its links with the opposition.

Colombian Ambassador General Jaime Hernandez Lopez was recalled on 28 August. He is traveling to Bogota today.

With Monteiro Lima and Gen Hernandez' departures, the embassies of Brazil, Colombia, Argentina, Peru, Uruguay, Venezuela, and Bolivia have been left in the hands of charges d'affaires.

The recall of the ambassadors of Colombia, Brazil, and Peru comes after the failure of the OAS-sponsored dialogue among the Panamanian government, military, and opposition.

The Colombian ambassador's departure has had a great affect among diplomatic circles because of the special relationship between the two countries and because, until now, the Bogota government had adopted what had been considered a "moderate" attitude toward the regime.

Panamanian President Manuel Solis Palma's term ends on 1 September and regime spokesmen have talked about the formation of a provisional government to cover the "vaccum" caused by the annulment of the 7 May elections.

Solis Comments Further on Transfer of Power

PA3008185889 Panama City Cadena Exitosa in Spanish 1710 GMT 30 Aug 89

[Maribel Saldana report on statements made by Manuel Solis Palma, minister in charge of the Presidency, in Panama City; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Saldana] The next government will be a provisional government resulting from a political agreement, not a legal agreement. It will be installed on 1 September when a transfer of power must take place, Manuel Solis Palma, minister in charge of the Presidency, has said:

[Solis Palma] New developments every minute have tipped the scale from one side to the other. It will be a matter of a few hours or 2 or 3 days before we know exactly what will happen. I do not have an answer either. We are currently involved in an extensive discussion of the situation to establish a government to handle the aggression we are now suffering and to meet the country's needs in a more flexible and dynamic fashion. We are trying to do whatever is more advisable for the country.

The Constitution contains no provision to handle the current situation in Panama. Some people have invoked Article 184. However, that article clearly pertains to the transfer of the Presidency after a government has been elected as the Constitution mandates. In this case, the elections were annulled and new elections could not be held before 1 September. Thus, there is no legal formula to have a transfer of power on 1 September.

In fact, [opposition politician] Dr Mario Galindo himself has said that whatever happens on 1 September lacks validity, because the elections were annulled and no new elections were held. The new government that emerges on 1 September must be a provisional government—let us not say illegal—but one that does not fulfill all constitutional requirements. Thus, this government would have to seek a formula to frame the country's operation within the constitution.

Under such conditions, we need a political solution. We must find a formula to involve the political parties; in general terms, the country needs a solution that will allow us to move forward. Should this not materialize before 1 September, I would have to continue my mandate until that takes place. However, I believe that we will come up with a formula by 1 September that will not necessarily be a continuation of the present government. This at least could be a possibility. I believe that this would be the most acceptable option for our political parties. This is why we are making an overall assessment of the situation.

I will not leave the Presidency if there is no decision by 1 September. That is impossible; that would be a violation of the law, because that would be tantamount to leaving a post when no replacement is available. This would be a crime; this cannot happen and especially not at the Presidency. However, I do not believe that this will happen.

[Saldana] Solis Palma said that it will be difficult to find agreement formulas as long as the Torrijos-Carter treaties continue to be violated.

[Solis Palma] We cannot accept the possibility of improving our relations with the United States on condition that a certain official of the administration be eliminated. As long as this precondition is maintained, there is no way to improve our relations. We are not acting whimsically; we are not obsessed with keeping Commander Noriega either. Simply put, the permanence of General Noriega as commander of the Panama Defense Forces is part of our current national liberation struggle.

Our struggle to consolidate our nationhood goes beyond the disrespectful act of demanding the exit of any official as a precondition. Thus, as long as this demand is maintained, as long as the Torrijos-Carter treaties are violated, and as long as the aim is to subjugate us through economic aggression, I believe that it will be very difficult to find an agreement formula despite our interest in maintaining the best of relations with the United States and any country.

Sources Leak Names of 'Probable' Junta Members

PA3008210689 Paris AFP in Spanish 2034 GMT 30 Aug 89

[Text] Panama City, 30 Aug (AFP)—It was announced in this capital today that General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander of the Panama Defense Forces (FDP), will meet tomorrow, 31 August, with the Council of Ministers to work out details of the new government that will take office on Friday.

Representatives of eight progovernment political parties and the 21 members of the FDP General Staff will also participate in the "emergency" meeting convoked this afternoon by Manuel Solis Palma, minister in charge of the Presidency.

The meeting, which will begin at 0800 (1300 GMT), was called "to discuss the mechanisms that may lead to the formation of a new government," which will begin functioning on 1 September, a note written by Solis Palma indicates.

According to the Panamanian Constitution, the government elected during the 7 May elections, which were annulled, should assume power on Friday.

Government sources said that a civilian-military junta made up of Carlos Duque, former progovernment presidential candidate; Hildebrando Nicosia, candidate of the Arnulfist Authentic Panamenist Party, an opposition party; and Colonel Marcos Justines, chief of the Panama Defense Forces General Staff will probably assume power on Friday.

'Complications' in Meetings

PA3108034989 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 0248 GMT 31 Aug 89

[Text] Panama City, 30 Aug (DPA)—Negotiations currently under way in Panama City among eight progovernment parties and the independent Arnulfist Authentic Panamenist Party to form a provisional government junta that will be sworn in on 1 September have been beset by "last-minute complications," it was revealed today by a participant in the talks.

According to the source, the small parties still have differences with the majority Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD) concerning the people who will lead the new Panamanian Government.

The spokesman revealed that the negotiations will continue until very late in the night to put together a final proposal that must be considered by the general state council early tomorrow morning.

Ritter Resignation Published

PA3108132889 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 31 Aug 89 pp A-1, B-24

["Text" of resignation letter by Foreign Minister Jorge Eduardo Ritter on 28 August]

[Text] 28 August 1989
His Excellency,
Minister in Charge of the Presidency:

Following the voice of my conscience, I hereby resign from the post of foreign minister with which you honored me 16 months ago. The current political circumstances call for public officials to set aside their personal interests for the sake of urgent national purposes. The fact that our country must comply with certain international commitments in the very near future leads me to make this decision.

I am pleased I was appointed to your cabinet in circumstances that were extremely difficult and to a post that is—and will continue to be—the key to an international struggle of colossal proportions if the country is to overcome—as I am sure it will—the merciless aggression it is enduring. I am very satisfied and proud of having been worthy of, first, your trust and, later, your unlimited support.

In this struggle no Panamanian is allowed to hesitate, much less to succumb, in the face of economic pressures and military threats. Inside and outside the administrative setup of the government, we all have tasks with which we must comply in order to reach national liberation. I have full confidence that I am not abandoning the struggle, just merely changing trenches in order to carry out the struggle.

The times during which you have been entrusted to direct the destiny of our nation have not been easy. They are not easy. You should feel satisfied, because although political passions today cloud the fair judgment of many, the future generations will thank you for your many concerns and efforts, the honesty with which you managed public administration, and the sense of responsibility and work which you communicated to your subordinates.

What still lies ahead will not be any less difficult. During the forthcoming weeks, we will have to wage a titanic struggle so that the United States will not mock one of the most cherished Panamanian achievements in the Panama Canal treaties: A fellow countryman will take over as the administrator of the canal on 1 January 1990. The Legislative Assembly has already made a choice; we now all have the commitment of demanding compliance. During the next few years, there cannot be any truce in the battle for the defense of the Torrijos-Carter Treaties. We not only have to demand strict compliance, but we forecast the need of preparing a great international campaign against the capricious interpretations and the abuse of the prerogatives granted to the United States in these treaties.

I harbor only sentiments of gratitude for having been allowed to serve my country in a post of top responsibility. I held it in the manner my few capabilities and my many limitations allowed me. I attribute the mistakes I made—and I am sure they were not few—to my own deficiencies, and not those of my collaborators. A permament communicaition with you, with the fellow members of the cabinet and the Panama Defense Forces, as well as with the leadership of my party, the PRD [Democratic Revolutionary Party], allowed me to make some achievements and to struggle against many difficulties. God knows my many actions were ruled by good faith, patriotism, and the teachings of the initiator and guide of the revolution, Omar Torrijos.

[Signed] Jorge Eduardo Ritter, Minister of Foreign Relations

To His Excellency, Manuel Solis Palma, Minister in Charge of the Presidency of the Republic, Panama City.

Executive Cabinet Meets 31 Aug

PA3108150089 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1435 GMT 31 Aug 89

[Text] Panama City, 31 Aug (ACAN-EFE)—The Panamanian Cabinet meeting began early this morning, 31 August, prior to the Council of State meeting that is expected to define the government that will take over tomorrow to replace the government of President Manuel Solis Palma.

Ministers and other high-ranking officials arrived very early at the Palace of the Herons, the Panamanian presidential palace, and evaded reporters' questions on the form and composition of the new government.

At the same time, it was announced that Foreign Minister Jorge Ritter has been the first member of Solis' cabinet to present his resignation.

Another minister told ACAN-EFE that there will be a "total change in the officials of the government" to be installed as of tomorrow in what some official circles are calling "a new republic."

General Manuel Antonio Noriega, chief of the Panama Defense Forces and Panama's "strongman," has observed total silence on this. President Solis Palma, whose mandate ends today, has been insisting to the last moment that all options are still open, including his continuity in the post.

The Council of State, of which Noriega is a member, is scheduled to begin its meeting at 1000 (1500 GMT).

Commandos To 'Take Up Weapons' Against U.S.

PA3008221689 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2129 GMT 30 Aug 89

[Text] Panama City, 30 Aug (DPA)—Panamanians who are former members of the Victoriano Lorenzo Internationalist Brigade that fought alongside the Sandinists to overthrow General Anastasio Somoza announced today that they will form special commandos "to take up weapons against the U.S. empire."

Pedro Lopez, spokesman for the fighters, disclosed that they are deployed in several strategic points in Panama, including the Panama Canal area.

"We are 500 brigade members who have precise instructions to carry out in the event of a U.S. invasion of Panama," Lopez said, adding that the commandos are backed by 60 organizations of fighters on the American continent, Africa, and Europe.

The spokesman announced that the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] of El Salvador is prepared to support them with 1,000 brigade members and also the M-19 [19 April Movement] from Colombia, which has offered logistical support in addition to personnel.

"We already know what it means to sweat and spill blood in a war and we do not care about the consequences because dying for one's homeland means dying with honor," Lopez noted.

Arias Calderon Accuses Regime of 'Intimidation'

PA3008235489 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2206 GMT 30 Aug 89

[Text] Panama City, 30 Aug (ACAN-EFE)—Ricardo Arias Calderon, president of the opposition Christian Democratic Party (PDC), today accused the Panamanian regime of having organized "an operation for the intimidation and repression" of PDC leaders and members by arresting them "without evidence of any kind."

In a statement released today, Arias says that the Panama Defense Forces [FDP], commanded by General Manuel Antonio Noriega, has increased its "repression" of the opposition over the past few days. At the same time, Arias denied any PDC involvement "in an alleged conspiracy and movement against the present government."

Local newspapers have accused various PDC leaders of financing and participating in an armed movement to destabilize the government. Recent issues of the papers have carried photographs showing PDC members in handcuffs and material allegedly obtained from their residences.

According to Arias, "The lack of foundation for these charges can be seen when one considers that over the past 2 weeks, television stations have shown the regime teaching its Dignity Battalions to make Molotov cocktails using bottles and cans just like those that are now shown in the photos of the prisoners."

Arias, a former candidate for vice president, insisted that his party will continue the "peaceful struggle and civil disobedience against the military dictatorship," because it does not believe in violence, although "it is exactly in that direction (toward violence) that Gen Noriega's regime is trying to lead the Panamanian people."

The statement lists the names of almost 20 people who have been arrested in Chiriqui Province, in the western part of the country, and in the capital.

PDC Arrests Linked to Commandos on Bo[illegible]er

PA3008235789 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2312 GMT 30 Aug 89

[Excerpts] In a public communique, the Christian Democratic Party [PDC] has denounced new arrests of PDC members and activists by the authorities. The PDC claims that the arrests were made without any explanation or official charge being filed.

Indeed, six new arrests were made late in the afternoon on 28 August, when Juan Paez, PDC Youth member, was arrested along with his mother and sister in Betania

Corregimiento. The same thing occurred in Puerto Armuelles, where other PDC members were arrested.

All these actions, which the PDC leadership describes as "unjustified persecution" by the authorities, have been accompanied by constant telephone threats to all the personnel working in the party headquarters on Peru Avenue.

The communique states that so far, the party lawyers do not know the reason for the arrests, and the authorities concerned have not yet presented the charges.

Meanwhile, Attorney General Carlos Augusto Villalobos made statements regarding the latest actions that have resulted in the arrest of several people linked to alleged subversive activities. [passage omitted]

[Begin recording] [Reporter] Have these arrests anything to do with the alleged terrorist commandos that certain progovernment parties claim are entering the country from Costa Rica?

[Villalobos] It is the same group of people. Their plans included such actions as placing bombs on bridges and in banks, and robberies in banks and local establishments, in order to obtain funds and food for the group that plans to cross the Costa Rican border into Panamanian territory. [end recording]

Official Denies Looting of National Assembly

PA3108032189 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 30 Aug 89

[Text] As part of a series of workshops being held for public employees in every province, the National Civil Defense System [SINAPROC] has held a civilians protection workshop for officials of several government institutions. The event, held at the Legislative Assembly's Blue Room, is aimed at enabling and training public officials to cope with natural disasters and an imminent U.S. Army invasion of Panama.

The workshop was also attended by Assembly President Celso Carrizo who, after congratulating the participants, pointed out: We must be prepared to defend our country, which is threatened with invasion. The peace we have always enjoyed is about to be disrupted because of domestic and outside interests. The United States is interested in our geographical position, our canal, and keeping its military bases.

Carrizo also strongly protested a report in a local paper today saying that the legislators have been carrying away furniture and other things from the Legislative Palace now that their term has expired.

[Begin Carrizo recording] It is completely false that looting has been taking place at the Assembly, as it has been reported. Some legislators have been removing their personal papers. This is perefectly normal because their terms end tomorrow. This is all there is to it. No desks or rugs have been taken away. I want to appeal to the press to constructively criticize and report the truth instead of taking advantage of a moment of confusion and uncertainty to make these false reports. I want to protest this. I am fully satisfied with the work of all of the legislators. (end recording)

Mayor Reminds People of Banned Demonstrations

PA3108021489 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 0005 GMT 31 Aug 89

[Text] Decree No 27 of 7 September 1979 issued by the mayor of Panama City continues to be in force. This decree bans, throughout Panama District, all types of public demonstrations and large gatherings with the evident purpose of disrupting public order or inciting the people to disregard the duly constituted authorities. The banning of public demonstrations aimed at disrupting peaceful coexistence gains importance at this moment in light of the current situation experienced by the country as a result of foreign aggression and the assumption of a new government on 1 September. This decree is aimed at providing the stability the Republic of Panama needs. Those persons who, for one reason or another, violate the decree, will be punished as established in the legal document.

University Head Calls for Autonomy, Democracy

PA3108023989 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2328 GMT 30 Aug 89

[Text] University of Panama student organizations held several meetings yesterday, and today the students, led by University of Panama Director Abdiel Adames, demonstrated on the campus and expressed their positions on the political situation in the country. The speeches focused on the need for respect for the university's autonomy and its struggle to continue operating. The demonstrators marched to the director's building, and several student leaders gave speeches on the current situation in the country. University Director Abdiel Adames also made a speech in which he stressed that the University of Panama, which was founded by Mendez Pereira, had the right to be autonomous and that the Panamanian people's will should be respected:

[Begin Abdiel Adames recording] The concept of inviolability goes along with the university's autonomy, and this concept was tarnished recently when, on the ill-fated 3 August, student Luis Gonzalez was killed. We are here today because our university's autonomy was violated on that day. We are here today to say that we have to defend the University of Panama's autonomy and that we have to defend democracy in the country. Panamanians require democracy, education, health, housing, and the respect and equality of citizens. So, the university stresses that the country's democratic institutions have to be strengthened. The country requires major social changes and an administration of justice that is above reproach and that will uphold both individual and social civil rights in this society. The people's will must be respected in this country. [end recording]

Health Ministry Declares Hospitals on Alert

PA3108044289 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 29 Aug 89

[Text] The Panamanian Health Ministry's General Health Directorate [DGS] has declared all state-run hospitals and health centers, private clinics, and health regions in the prevention stage of a general alert.

The directorate said the country is in serious danger of suffering a large-scale disaster resulting from an imminent U.S. armed invasion. This announcement is part of directive 852 DGS signed by Dr Jorge Luis Prosperi, health general director, who said precautionary measures should be taken because of the country's national emergency. The directive stipulates the obligatory implementation of all measures considered in the national health plan for disaster situations and contingencies in the metropolitan area. All government officials are urged to increase the supply of critical supplies, particularly water, food, medicines, and surgical material.

Nevertheless, the National Medical Negotiating Commission [COMENENAL] released a communique this afternoon expressing its concern over the national emergency declaration made by the health sector, in the name of the minister, considering an eventual U.S. armed invasion. COMENENAL coordinator Dr. Lourdes Rodriguez has said the General Health Directorate, headed by Dr Jorge Luis Prosperi, is not legally empowered to set up working shifts in the absence of a formal national emergency declaration. COMENENAL also opposed strongly the designation of medical personnel to cover emergency shifts in clinics not equipped to handle these shifts. The organization said this would be equivalent to appointing unqualified personnel to serve in medical centers. This is Dr Rodriguez on transportation provisions.

[Begin Rodriguez recording] Measures to permit the medical personnel to go to the medical centers and work in safety should an emergency situation exist have not been implemented.

It is risky to create a climate of uncertainty among the people in view of a presumed threat of a foreign aggression. As a civil protection measure, the people should refrain from going out in the city. As a result of your directive and in case of an armed aggression, the people will have to face a better trained and equipped Army, thus increasing the number of victims that such a confrontation would cause.

We assure the population that the doctors have always been and will always be willing to offer their services in the exceptional conditions of a true national emergency. We hope your office will soon respond to our request. [end recording]

Government Reiterates Warning on Radio Jamming

PA3108024189 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2349 GMT 30 Aug 89

[Text] The Government and Justice Ministry's National Media Directorate today released a communique expressing its concern because the daily broadcasts of a large number of radio stations are being jammed by people who are attempting to disrupt public order with slogans and proclamations against the duly constituted institutions. The National Media Directorate also noted that after the jamming subsides, the listeners are not given an explanation regarding what has happened. For this reason, the National Media Directorate reiterates that in light of this reproachable and unusual conduct, part of the escalation staged by the pro-Yankee opposition against the government, it will continue to study what is happening and, at the right moment, will take action against those involved in these acts of radio terrorism and subversion.

Labor Union Statement on New Government

PA3108134089 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2355 GMT 30 Aug 89

[Text] The Confederation of Workers of the Republic of Panama, CTRP, today issued a statement to the nation in which they said that they will not support a government that does not have a plan that contemplates the needs and interests of the Panamanian workers and people in general. The statement was read by CTRP Secretary Aniano Pinzon. In the most important part of the document the CTRP states:

[Begin Pinzon recording] In light of the political changes to take place on 1 September, changes in which we have been assigned the role of spectator, we wish to state that we will not support a government plan that does not contemplate the needs and interests of the Panamanian workers and people in general. If the government that is installed truly wants to introduce changes, it must draft a policy of deep social content. We believe that we cannot talk of rebuilding the country or reactivating the productive forces without consultations and without the participation of the popular forces, especially the working class.

In this sense, the changes made must be in accordance with the expectations of the people who are demanding change in order to advance in the struggle for national

liberation and for their social demands to be met. We do not want a change of face as has been the practice of the government up to now.

Therefore, our organization states: In light of the political changes which are about to take place, and especially in light of the threat of a military intervention, suggested by the U.S. Government as the only solution to perpetuate its military bases in our territory, we will remain alert to what may happen at this very important moment in the history and life of the country.

We hereby call on all our organizations to remain in a state of alert; do not allow yourselves to be misled. We uphold our determination to advance along the path of firm action to defend the threatened homeland and our rights and interests. We wish to be the main characters in this struggle. [end recording]

Argentina

Menem Advocates Death Sentence for Traffickers

PY3008172989 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 30 Aug 89 p 9

[Text] (NA-DYN)—President Carlos Menem said yesterday in an interview on Radio Belgrano that those countries facing drug-related problems should be at their "severest" when combatting the scourge. In the same interview Menem expressed his opinion that "the best way to solve the problem of drugs in the continent is to sentence 20 or 30 drug-trafficking masterminds to death." Menem also said he was "flattered" by his growing popularity over the last couple of months and said that he thought "the people are accepting the proposition we have worked out over many years and put into effect since July 8." He said that so far things were working out in an acceptable fashion, adding that "we are on the right course despite any errors we may have committed in such a short period of time." Asked about the reported cases of corruption under the Alfonsin admnistration Menem said that "those responsible for these deeds...would be severely sentenced."

Menem-Thatcher Meeting Considered Possible

PY3008202589 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1512 GMT 30 Aug 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 30 Aug (TELAM)—Foreign Minister Domingo Cavallo "has not ruled out" the possibility of President Carlos Menem meeting with British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, despite the fact that no concrete proposal for such meeting has been made.

Cavallo mentioned the Malvinas Islands situation upon leaving the Senate at around 1200. After a briefing with the senators, Cavallo headed for the Chamber of Deputies for a briefing with the deputies.

Improving Ties Lauded

PY3008222489 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1345 GMT 30 Aug 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 30 Aug (NA)—Foreign Minister Domingo Cavallo today said that because of the "absence of a dialogue" with Great Britain over the Malvinas Islands, "those who want to see concrete results have been led to think only in terms of an armed conflict" with that country.

The minister said that President Carlos Menem's decision to seek to reestablish Argentine-British relations is "a step toward reality."

Cavallo noted that the reopening of [words indistinct] contacts with the British "does not mean [words indistinct] the Argentine rights over the Malvinas, Georgias, and South Sandwich Islands."

Cavallo made these remarks at the opening of a seminar on relations between Argentina and the European countries at the Bosch room of the Central Bank.

Before rushing to Congress, where senators and deputies were waiting for him, the minister said: "The absence of a dialogue has led those who want to see concrete results to think only in terms of an armed conflict. We should first engage in a dialogue and then resort to legal methods to restore our rights. Those are the only acceptable steps."

Concerning the relations between Argentina and the European countries, Cavallo said that business partnerships and multilateral negotiations are appropriate methods for promoting integration.

The minister predicted international unity—both political and commercial—and he stressed that Eastern Europe is strengthening its ties with Western Europe in an effort to adapt itself to the new state of affairs that he foresees.

Cavallo said that at international forums, Argentina will continue to advocate "the changes" that the Foreign Ministry "believes to be necessary for organizing the world."

The minister stressed the need to "take advantage of the opportunities for alleviating the negative effects of restrictions," although, he went on, "our foreign policy reflects the government's realistic approach."

Foreign Ministry Hosts UK Interest Head

PY3108032089 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 0200 GMT 31 Aug 89

[Text] An official who heads the Swiss Embassy's UK interest section in Argentina will report to the Foreign Ministry tomorrow. Simultaneously, the Brazilian Ambassador to Great Britain will introduce the chief of the Brazil Embassy's Argentine interest section to the UK Foreign Office. These steps will be taken as part of the improvement in bilateral relations that was started after President Menem's inauguration.

Bolivian Foreign Minister Meets President Menem

PY3108033689 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 0200 GMT 31 Aug 89

[Excerpts] President Carlos Menem has met with Bolivian Foreign Minister Carlos Iturralde and with Argentine Labor Minister Jorge Traica. [passage omitted]

The Bolivian Foreign Minister conveyed Bolivian President Jaime Paz Zamora's greetings to Menem. The president and the Bolivian minister talked about bilateral integration and economic issues. [passage omitted]

Government Cuts Nonessential Posts Abroad

PY3008214089 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1556 GMT 30 Aug 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 30 Aug (TELAM)—It was disclosed at Government House today that the executive branch has dismissed a group of Foreign Ministry officials appointed between 1985 and 1988 whose functions "are not essential and represent a great expense for the public treasury."

This measure affects the legal affairs attache in Spain, Herardo Quijano; the education attache in Italy, German Osvaldo Lopez; the scientific and technological attache in the United States, Monica Peralta Ramos; and the education attache in Colombia, Luis Sobron.

The executive has also ordered that those employees report to the Education Minister "within the 45 days after they receive their notifications" and stated that they will cease activities "the day after they arrive in the country."

The Education and Justice Ministry, "in view of the plan to rationalize the distribution of posts under its jurisdiction" has ordered the dismissal and transfer of those officials because "maintaining their posts in other countries is not in keeping with the extremely serious economic situation our country is experiencing."

The measure adds that "the posts occupied by those attaches can be perfectly covered by the permanent Foreign Service officials" who work for the Foreign Ministry.

The measure was disclosed in Decree No 616, signed by President Carlos Menem, Education and Justice Minister Antonio Salonia, and Foreign Relations and Worship Minister Domingo Cavallo.

Executive Branch Announces Officers' Retirement

PY3008225489 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1551 GMT 30 Aug 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 30 Aug (TELAM)—The Executive Branch today announced the retirement of Brigade Generals Alfredo Arrillaga and Francisco Ricardo Salas and the designation of Luis Garcia Orlando as deputy secretary of the Constitutional Affairs and Administrative Coordination Department of the Defense Secretariat.

These measures were officially announced at the Government House this morning. The Executive Branch also announced that it has accepted the resignation of Judge Ernesto Iglesias Hunt, of the General Roca court, in Rio Negro Province.

General Arrillaga was Army inspector general, and General Salas was chief of personnel of the Army Planning Directorate.

Former CNEA Head Says Nuclear Plan Delayed

PY3008041289 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1936 GMT 29 Aug 89

[Text] Bahia Blanca, 29 Aug (NA)—Former National Commission for Atomic Energy (CNEA) President Vice Admiral, retired, Carlos Castro Madero, has said in Trelew that the implementation of the Argentine nuclear plan has been delayed by 6 to 8 years.

Castro Madero noted that the construction of a nuclear dump in the Chubut locality of Gastre will "promote development in an area that has no resources." He minimized the danger that the dump may pose to the population.

He maintained that "the people who worry about the problems that may be generated by the use of nuclear energy are the same who oppose the possible resolution" of the issue.

In statements after a lecture he delivered in Trelew, Castro Madero, who is a nuclear energy specialist, provided details of the construction of a dump in Gastre.

"The Ezeiza nuclear plant neighbors have not yet complained about the pools where the radioactive residue is being stored, despite the fact that the residue is kept in demineralized water in a temporary storage place. There have been complaints, however, about something that has not even been built in Gastre," he noted.

Gastre is a desert area that offers no chances for farming or mining and that has no tourist attraction because of its monotonous landscape.

"To build a dump in Gastre will be to promote development in an area that has no resources at all," Castro Madero said.

He added that nuclear energy is an appropriate source of power, because "oil and gas, which have been used for essential purposes, are nonrenewable resources."

"Coal is cheap but it causes environmental problems, and since hydroelectric power is limited, the alternative is nuclear energy," Castro Madero said, adding that "World Bank studies have concluded that nuclear generation is the cheapest way to increase our generation capacity."

Castro Madero added that the implementation of the Argentine nuclear plan has been delayed by 6 to 8 years, because while the construction of the Atucha II plant should have been completed in 1987 or 1988, only 50 percent of the project has been completed.

If this project is not stopped, the plant can be ready for operation in 1993 or 1994, Castro Madero concluded.

Bolivia

Presence of Colombian Traffickers Investigated

PY3108031489 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2116 GMT 30 Aug 89

[Text] La Paz, 30 Aug (EFE)—Social Defense Vice Minister Gonzalo Torrico has reported that Bolivian officials are investigating whether Colombian citizens belonging to the Cali and Medellin Cartels help control Bolivian cocaine processing laboratories.

According to Bolivian press reports, police sources have disclosed the arrest of Richard Kollors in Arica. He was carrying a shipment of pure cocaine processed in Bolivia and valued at $40 million. This shows the participation of Colombian drug traffickers.

According to police sources, Kollors was a middleman who picked up the drugs in Chapare, Cochabamba, 400 km from La Paz, at the request of a group of Colombians linked to drug trafficking.

The report indicates that the laboratories in the departments of Cochabamba, Santa Cruz, and Beni crystallized the drug, which was then sent to the commercial centers through middlemen who came from Colombia.

Torrico said that "at this time I would not dare to affirm or deny the report." He expressed his concern because "we were producing cocaine base and now unfortunately some crystallization laboratories have been discovered."

According to Torrico this "confirms that cocaine production" is in the "industrialization phase."

Torrico reiterated that "groups of drug traffickers with international connections" established in Bolivia a small network of producers, sellers, and suppliers who were working effectively in Bolivian territory.

Torrico added that the special command for the struggle against drug trafficking is investigating to learn whether the Cali and Medellin Cartels have come to Bolivia. If they have, the necessary measures will be taken to fight them.

Brazil

Government Not To Aid Colombia Militarily

PY3008124089 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 30 Aug 89

[Text] Brazil will send neither troops nor weapons to Colombia to help fight drug traffickers. Foreign Ministry spokesman Rui Nogueira has reported that Colombia and Brazil maintain cooperation treaties that do not allow this kind of activity. Nogueira added that the Colombian Government has not even requested any kind of military aid from Brazil. The only Brazilian initiative has come from the Brazilian Federal Police, which reinforced its controls along the border with Colombia.

Army Minister Leonidas Pires Goncalves has denied having ordered the deployment of troops to the Colombian border, because he has not received orders from President Sarney to do so.

Aeronautics Minister General Octavio Moreira Lima has said that he can, if necessary, immediately send Mirage fighter planes, F-5 Xavante planes, and radar squadrons to control the airspace near the Colombian border. There is currently no daily airspace control at this border.

Plan Formed With OAS To Fight Trafficking

PY3008222889 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 29 Aug 89 p A-8

[By Josias de Souza]

[Text] The Brazilian Government and the Organization of American States (OAS) are jointly designing a plan to help Colombia fight the drug cartels.

The last stage of the plan foresees sending of foreign troops, including Brazilian soldiers, to support the action against the Medellin Cartel. This would only happen in an extreme situation, and if requested by Colombian President Virgilio Barco. This decision should be submitted for approval to the OAS.

In phone conversations with Virgilio Barco, President Sarney offered "all the help that Brazil can give." This weekend, the Justice Ministry sent Federal Narcotics Council President Laercio Pelegrino to Washington. Pelegrino will meet with representatives of OAS countries until 1 September to analyze the Colombian situation. A meeting of justice ministers of OAS countries, which was scheduled for the end of the year, might be held at an earlier date.

Sarney ordered Justice Minister Saulo Ramos, Army Minister Leonidas Pires Goncalves, and National Service for Intelligence (SNI) head Ivan de Souza Mendes to undertake a joint operation to prevent Colombian drug traffickers from entering the country. On 27 August, Sarney talked with Saulo Ramos, who was in Barretos (Sao Paulo State), and asked him about the measures that had already been taken. The main measures are: 1) Reinforcement of border forces in the Amazonian region. Army soldiers and Federal Police agents were sent to the area. The number of troops is being kept secret.
2) Detection and control of clandestine airstrips all over the country. It is believed that traffickers are likely to use this type of airstrip—where small planes can operate—to enter Brazilian territory.

The Federal Police have issued a list of more than 30 drug traffickers who want to escape from Colombia. The police are looking for them in Brazil.

The Justice Minister asked for an investigation into whether any drug traffickers own real estate in Brazil. If any is discovered, the government should order it confiscated.

Police Seize Colombian Drug Traffickers' Cars

PY3008235289 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2300 GMT 30 Aug 89

[Text] Brazilian Federal Police have seized two cars that were abandoned on the Colombian border near the town of Tabatinga. Colombian police have confirmed that the cars belonged to Colombian drug traffickers and that they had been confiscated. Police believe that 24 other cars belonging to drug traffickers may be in Brazil.

Federal Police Director General Romeu Tuma is now at the Colombian border. This morning he met with two commanders of the border battalions of the Brazilian and Colombian Armies. Tuma is in the region to coordinate Army cooperation in investigating the possible escape of Colombian drug traffickers to Brazil.

New Justice Ministry Official Installed

PY3108011889 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 30 Aug 89

[Summary] Justice Minister Saulo Ramos today installed Joao Benedito Azevedo Marques as the new chairman of the National Council of Criminal Policies. Marques, who is replacing (Ariel Doti), intends to adopt a series of measures to reduce crime.

Aug Inflation Rate Reported at 29.34 Percent

PY3108011689 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 30 Aug 89

[Summary] The Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics has just announced that the inflation rate for August is 29.34 percent. This is the second highest monthly inflation rate in Brazilian history.

Chile

Public Meetings Restricted in Santiago

PY3108034089 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 30 Aug 89

[Excerpts] Brigadier General Carlos Carvallo, intendant of the Metropolitan Region, today revealed areas where public acts of meetings are prohibited. The resolution is contained in a decree promulgated today. [passage omitted]

The intendant also announced that the intendency may prohibit public meetings in areas not listed in the decree when circumstances make it necessary.

The organizers of meeting to take place in authorized areas must inform the respective intendant or governor at least 48 hours before the meeting takes place.

Moreover, the public and security forces may prevent or disperse any demonstration not reported to the appropriate authorities within the established time.

National Television Press Director Resigns

PY3008211889 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 30 Aug 89

[Excerpt] National Television Press Director Patricia Guzman has resigned and has issued a communique to confirm the fact.

It has been learned from government sources that Minister Secretary General of Government Colonel Cristian Labbe had asked Guzman to resign.

It was said that Guzman resigned over disagreements about the program called At Home, which was broadcast last night by the state-owned television channel. The program was an interview with Patricio Aylwin, the presidential candidate of the Coalition of Parties for Democracy.

According to unofficial sources, Roberto Mardones, the current Radio Nacional director, will replace Patricia Guzman. [passage omitted]

New Director Appointed

PY3108033489 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 30 Aug 89

[Excerpt] The government has appointed Roberto Mardones, current director of Radio Nacional, to be press director of Television Channel No 7.

Mardones was appointed to replace Patricia Guzman, who resigned from the post. [passage omitted]

Aylwin Criticizes Government Pressure

PY3108021089 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 30 Aug 89

[Text] Today presidential candidate Patricio Aylwin held a 1-hour meeting with leaders of the Students Federation of the Catholic University to discuss the students' problems in that university.

At the end of the meeting, Aylwin was asked about the situation of National Television Press Director Patricia Guzman, after Aylwin was interviewed by two state television reporters in the program called At Home. He said he had learned that she was relieved of her post, that her resignation had been requested.

Aylwin said that this is an unusual event. He added: I called her to convey my solidarity. He said that the interview was very harsh.

[Begin Aylwin recording] It was an objective interview. Our conversation was objective. It seems to me that a national television belongs to all Chileans and that it is a shameless intervention if the National Television press director is censored and fired for having interviewed a

presidential candidate. This is proof that there is no real guarantee of electoral independence and that a great injustice has been committed. [end recording]

Patricio Aylwin concluded by saying that this is unacceptable.

Communist Youth Reportedly Involved in Arson

PY3008135989 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 29 Aug 89

[Angelina Rojas report from Iquique]

[Text] Carabineros in Iquique have detained five people who allegedly belong to the Communist Party Youth. One of them—Marcos Perez Choken, 17—was charged with an arson attack on the (Eperva) Fishing Company. The other four detainees were charged with attending meetings to plan and organize the attack on the fishing company.

The official communique released by the Carabineros Public Relations Department also reported that Perez Choken went to the fishing company, which is located in the industrial sector of Iquique, and used several types of fuels to set fire to two nets unsed for industrial fishing activities. The fishing company estimated the losses at nearly 30 million pesos.

According to the Carabineros, Perez Choken confessed that he acted alone in the attack. The Carabineros later found out, however, that Perez Choken had been aided by another individual who had managed to escape. Police are now looking for this man, who is named Jose Luis. In an operation conducted early this morning, Carabineros detained four other youths: Juan Enriquez Herrera, 24, a workers; Oscar Bolivares Santibanez, 24, also a worker; and Yenni Valdivia Irrazabal, 18, and her sister, Dario Valdivia Irrazabal 15, both high school students. The detainees were placed at the disposal of the courts for violating the Antiterrorism Law.

A spokesman for the Communist Youth has reported that police were unjustly involving the detainees in the attack because the Communist Youth militants did not take part in it. The spokesman added that the detainees were taken from their homes at different hours of the night. Relatives of Perez Choken and of the Valdivia Irrazabal sisters have filed an injuction on their behalf, saying that the youths were arbitrarily detained.

Daily Reports Regime To Privatize State Bank

PY3008042089 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2343 GMT 29 Aug 89

[Text] Santiago, 29 Aug (EFE)—Santiago EL MERCURIO today published an article stating that the State Bank, the biggest bank in Chile, will become a state-private sector enterprise. The daily, which attributes the news to "well-informed sources," says that the state will own only 20 percent of the State Bank shares.

EL MERCURIO thus confirms rumors that have been circulating in Chilean political and economic sectors over the past few days. Government officials and State Bank chairman Alvaro Bardon, however, have denied these rumors. Bardon said that the bank executives and government officials have only planned to reduce the participation of the state in the bank's affairs.

The privatization project, which follows the model known as "people's capitalism," establishes that 33 percent of the bank's capital should be sold to the bank employees, and that the remaining 47 percent should be divided between the bank's clients, government employees, and the public in general.

Half-Year Industrial Production Rate Noted

PY3008193089 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 30 Aug 89

[Summary] The Chilean industrial production reate grew 16 percent during the first 7 months of 1989. (Jaime Hales), manager of the survey department of the Industrial Development Association, has pointed out that this growth rate was much higher than expected.

Colombia

U.S. Government Repeats Warning to U.S. Citizens

PA3108013789 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 0030 GMT 31 Aug 89

[Text] As a result of the current situation in the country, U.S. authorities have issued a second warning to U.S. citizens to leave the country. The U.S. State Department today warned that Americans living in Colombia could become targets for the drug traffickers. It urged the families of diplomats to leave the country and urged U.S. Ambassador McNamara to evacuate members of the mission if necessary.

Colombia's situation is unstable, and it is likely that it will remain that way for an indefinite period of time, warned the State Department, which on 25 August warned Americans not to travel to Colombia. The possibility of attacks on Americans in Colombia has been highlighted by the State Department because of Washington's decision to help Colombia and President Barco's decision to extradite drug barons who are sought by U.S. authorities.

Bogota was already considered a high-risk city, so most U.S. Foreign Service personnel in Colombia do not have their children in the country with them. The State Department warning, however, is for all Americans.

Alleged Drug Cartel Front Man Found Murdered

PA3108030089 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0216 GMT 31 Aug 89

[Text] Bogota, 30 Aug (EFE)—The police reported that Cattleman Liberto Gutierrez Marquez, the alleged front

man of the Medellin Cartel and brother of a former Colombian attorney general, was found murdered today approximately 500 km northwest of Bogota.

The source said that Liberto Gutierrez had recently disappeared and apparently had been kidnapped by Maoist People's Liberation Army (EPL) guerrillas, but this was not confirmed.

Gutierrez' corpse was found today in Ayapel municipality, Cordoba Department, approximately 500 km northwest of Bogota, but the date of his death is not known.

Liberto Gutierrez owned a farm next to the now confiscated Napoles Farm, which belonged to Pablo Escobar Gaviria, considered the Medellin Cartel leader.

Gutierrez' farm, located in Puerto Triunfo, a zone in Magdalena Medio, Antioquia Department, had a landing strip in which a "Turbocommander 2000"—stolen by drug traffickers from a Colombian Air Force Base (FAC) in Bogota—had landed on 2 March 1988.

FAC fighter planes chased the thieves up to Liberdo Gutierrez' farm and bombed both the aircraft and the landing strip, as well as the Napoles Farm, killing a cook who worked in Escobar's house.

As a result of the incident it was discovered that the owner of the farm and landing strip used by the drug traffickers was also the brother of Alfredo Gutierrez, who was appointed attorney general of Colombia following the murder of Carlos Mauro Hoyos on 25 January 1988.

Because of the suspicion that his brother was a front man for Pablo Escobar, Attorney General Alfredo Gutierrez resigned on 28 March 1988, 2 months after assuming his post.

The attorney general's resignation occurred during a general offensive in Medellin against drug traffickers, following Hoyos' murder, during which farms were raided and arsenals and documents confiscated.

Mayor Establishes Curfew in Medellin

PA3008154989 Paris AFP in Spanish 1515 GMT 30 Aug 89

[Text] Medellin, Colombia, 30 Aug (AFP)—Medellin Mayor Juan Gomez told AFP today that a curfew has been established in Medellin, Colombia's second most important city and the target of an escalation of terrorism by the drug mafias.

The mayor said the curfew will be in force from 0300 GMT to 1100 GMT. On Tuesday, Gomez proposed that a dialogue be held with the drug mafias.

The curfew was established through a decree signed by Gomez and city government secretary Carlos Arturo Piedrahita.

Security Plan Launched

PA3108020189 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 0002 GMT 31 Aug 89

[Text] The resignations of three of the judges in charge of investigating the murders of the governor of Antioquia, another judge, and the Antioquia police commander, were announced today. Moreover, two of the judges left Colombia.

Meanwhile, almost 4,000 members of the national police and the Medellin security forces will patrol the metropolitan area throughout the night. Revenue Guards [Carabineros], GOES [Special Operations Group] agents, members of the Citizen Order Department [Departamento de Orden Ciudadano], and traffic policemen will be on alert.

Among the measures planned by the metropolitan police for the curfew that begins tonight in Medellin are the installation of 18 checkpoints strategically located at the metropolitan area's leading entrances and exits. Three hundred and fifty policemen will guard the checkpoints and conduct searches. They will work around-the-clock searching vehicles and individuals traveling in those areas. The nine permanent and nine mobile checkpoints will be useful in locating weapons, explosives, drugs, criminals, and stolen vehicles. Several of the checkpoints will be reinforced with armored antiriot vehicles in anticipation of clashes.

'Official Information' Requested From Israel

TA3108044789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0400 GMT 31 Aug 89

[Text] The Colombian Foreign Ministry has asked Israel to provide official information on Israeli involvement in the Colombian drug trade. Colombia added that it is waiting for the results of the investigation started in Israel.

The Colombian Foreign Ministry spokesman told our correspondent Yaron Enosh that the Israeli Government has not provided Colombia with any official information on Klein's interrogation. He claims that all that is known to the Colombian authorities was gathered from Israeli press reports, saying that they have received no official report from the Israeli authorities. He stressed that relations with the Israeli Embassy in Bogota are normal, but added that Colombia has no reliable reports that other foreign nationals are involved in the drug affair.

Further on Official's Remarks on Extraditions

PA3008151889 Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1215 GMT 30 Aug 89

[Text] Bogota—The Colombian Government has warned it will not hold talks with drug traffickers. Carlos Lemos, communications minister and acting justice minister, made that statement in reply to a letter by Fabio Ochoa, the father of alleged members of the

Medellin Cartel. In that letter, Fabio Ochoa proposes a dialogue with the president. This decision is in line with the swift measures the Barco administration adopted to combat the drug cartels, Lemos said.

Asked about the extradition of some mobsters, he said no decision been made because this measure involves a legal procedure, namely, a country requiring the extradition has to file a petition with Colombia, and that petition has to be reviewed.

The acting justice minister said that the National Drug Council has not met yet to consider the procedures on the expropriation of properities and extraditions.

De Greiff Explains Procedures

PA3108021089 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 0000 GMT 31 Aug 89

[Text] Extradition is one of the weapons the Colombian Government can use in its war against drug traffickers. The legal procedures involved in extradition, however, presently make it more difficult to hold the drug kingpins in prison than to capture them. Let's see why. Pablo Escobar Gaviria told the French newspaper LIBERATION that he is at his living quarters in the Magdalena region in Colombia. Even knowing the exact location of his hiding place, the capture of Escobar and the other drug leaders would entail many problems for the government. Justice Minister Monica de Greiff has detailed the steps to be taken to authorize the extradition of a criminal.

[Begin de Greiff recording] We cannot waive this procedure, which consists of the following. A foreign government files an extradition request through the Colombian Foreign Ministry. Then six ministers who form the National Drug Council and the president study the request. An extradition resolution is released. The person involved is notified. The person has the right to lodge an appeal. If the decision is confirmed, the person can be extradited. Every legal step must be followed. [end recording]

These procedures take at least 15 working days, or 3 weeks, to be completed. History has shown, however, that this is too long for notorious drug traffickers to stay in prison. Evaristo Porras has been detained twice, but he has never stayed more than 1 week behind bars. Jorge Luis Ochoa, who was extradited from Spain, was detained only 25 days in Cartagena. Captured again and taken to prison, he was held 40 days, until he was released. The officials who released him have been removed. Freddy Rodriguez, son of Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha, was released from the Bellavista Prison in Medellin 15 days after he was detained, when there were rumors of an operation to rescue him.

It is worrisome to try to determine what prison and what Colombian guards can withstand the pressure of holding one of these kingpins or the 5 leaders for 21 days.

Suspect Police Captain Escapes From Prison

PA3108020389 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 0000 GMT 31 Aug 89

[Report by Hernando Corrales]

[Text] A police captain who was being held at the Bogota prison on suspicion of working for the Medellin drug cartel escaped Monday night. The police captain, Oliverios Guerra Muriel, was arrested in Cartago with two police lieutenants who were accused of plotting against the Cali drug cartel.

According to the authorities, these two officers had been hired by the Medellin Cartel, but they failed in their mission against the Cali Cartel and were arrested by a police patrol in this Valle Department town. The police have mounted a search for Guerra, who was awaiting trial before the Cali second public order court. The authorities are trying to determine how the suspect escaped from the prison, which was guarded by other policemen.

Attack on Antioquia Distillery Foiled

PA3108015189 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 0015 GMT 31 Aug 89

[Text] Last night's terrorist target was the Antioquia liquor distillery [fabrica de licores de Antioquia]. Four powerful rockets were going to explode very close to the tanks where 300,000 gallons of the so-called Castille crude, used to operate the boilers, is stored. The watchmen on duty reported that at 2030 they saw a man and a woman leaving a small suitcase near the fence that surrounds the distillery. The watchmen exchanged fire with the terrorists who fled leaving behind the explosive material that also included dynamite and grenade rocket launchers. Metropolitan police personnel specializing in explosives, defused the rockets. Some 100 people were working inside the distillery.

The damage the rockets would have caused had they been activated cannot be estimated because the Caribe Soda Factory and the Guayabal residential area would have also been affected.

The Antioquia liquor distillery has received threats in the past and maximum security has always been practiced in the area. Security was stepped up last night after the incident. The liquor industry is the largest foreign exchange producer for the department.

Truck Driver Carrying 200 Grenades Arrested

PA3008195389 Paris AFP in Spanish 1858 GMT 30 Aug 89

[Text] Bogota, 30 Aug (AFP)—The driver of a truck transporting 200 fragmentation grenades and 200 propellent cartridges was arrested today near the town of La Dorada, 180 km northeast of Bogota, the Colombian police reported.

According to the security forces report, the driver, whose name was not disclosed, admitted he was taking the explosive materials to Medellin, 500 km northeast of Bogota. "The material was going to be taken to Medellin to perpetrate terrorist attacks," the driver reportedly said, according to a report by one of the policemen who intercepted him on the road. The grenades were camouflaged in a shipment of agricultural products.

DAS Head: Foreigners Involved in Galan Murder

PA3008155889 Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1215 GMT 30 Aug 89

[Text] Bogota—General Miguel Maza Marquez, director of the Administrative Department of Security, described as successful the investigations being conducted to clarify the murder of Liberal presidential hopeful Luis Carlos Galan. He said that, based on testimony obtained so far, it was confirmed the five suspects under arrest were indeed involved in the murder. Gen Maza Marquez admitted foreign mercenaries participated in the murder.

He also said that the number of bodyguards of all presidential hopefuls was increased, adding that security measures will be implemented in the near future.

Galan's Bodyguard Dies of Wounds 31 Aug

PA3108034589 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0106 GMT 31 Aug 89

[Excerpt] Bogota, 30 Aug (EFE)—Santiago Cuervo, an agent of the Administrative Department of Security (secret police) who was shot and wounded on 18 August during the attack in which presidential candidate Senator Luis Carlos Galan was killed, died of his wounds today.

Cuervo was one of the bodyguards who was protecting Galan. He was struck by several bullets in the abdominal region that were meant for Galan, a candidate for the nomination of the ruling Liberal Party. Cuervo shielded Galan with his body. [passage omitted]

Ecuador

Immigration Restricts Colombian Border Entry

PA3008225189 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1159 GMT 30 Aug 89

[Text] The Ecuadoran immigration authorities have restricted entry into the country through the Colombian-Ecuadoran border to daytime only, to prevent entry by Colombian drug traffickers. Custom Control Chief Raul Martinez said that entry of Colombian tourists has been restricted to between 0600 and 1800. Martinez said that Colombian vehicles that have passed through customs can be identified by a sticker and only with this sticker may these vehicles travel in Ecuador.

Borja To Head Delegation to Nonaligned Summit

PA3108043589 Paris AFP in Spanish 2337 GMT 30 Aug 89

[Excerpts] Quito, 30 Aug (AFP)—The Foreign Ministry announced today that Ecuadoran President Rodrigo Borja will leave on Saturday at the head of a small delegation to attend the meeting of nonaligned countries in Belgrade, after which he will make official visits to Portugal and Spain.

Borja will become the first Ecuadoran president to attend a nonaligned summit meeting. On this occasion, the meeting will be held in Belgrade from 4-7 September. The Ecuadoran president will arrive in the Yugoslav capital along with his Venezuelan counterpart, Carlos Andres Perez, whom he will meet on Sunday in Frankfurt.

Borja and Perez were to travel with Colombian President Virgilio Barco, but Barco decided at the last minute not to attend because of the war against the drug trafficking that is being waged in Colombia in the wake of the assassination of Liberal Party leader Luis Carlos Galan. [passage omitted]

On this his fifth trip abroad, Borja will be accompanied by Diego Cordovez, his foreign minister; Washington Herrera, secretary general of public administration (coordinator of the cabinet); the commander of the Army, and the commander's secretary of information. [passage omitted]

Peru

Minister on Struggle Against Terrorism, Drugs

PY3008035689 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 30 Aug 89

[Excerpts] Interior Minister Augustin Mantilla has announced that more than 1,600 vehicles, 7 helicopters, and other equipment acquired in Mexico will arrive in Peru soon. It will be used by the National Police in its struggle against crime and subversion.

He also announced that during the past few days the police have arrested several terrorists, thus preventing a number of attacks against public and private buildings in Lima.

[Begin recording] [Reporter] What information do you have so far from Caballococha and Leticia regarding the measures implemented by the Interior Ministry on the Colombian border?

[Mantilla] So far there is no information in that regard. The police remain alert to prevent any Colombian criminal or drug trafficker from seeking refuge in our country.

[Repoter] Do you have any information regarding any incident?

[Mantilla] There have been some important arrests of terrorists in the city, but we cannot disclose any information in this regard yet. [passage omitted]

[Mantilla] As I have already announced, we have acquired in Mexico 1,000 patrol cars, 200 pickup trucks, 7 helicopters, and other material—including 270 other vehicles for the struggle against subversion in rural areas. Another 150 motorbikes will be distributed in sectors of Lima. The government is making this great effort to support the National Police in its attempt to guarantee the citizenry's safety. [passage omitted]

Economy Minister on Relations With IMF

PY3008132789 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 30 Aug 89

[Excerpts] In a news conference held in his office, Economy Minister Cesar Vasquez Bazan has said that it is not true that the IMF is about to expel Peru from the organization. Minister Vasquez Bazan assured that talks with the IMF continue and that progress is being made. The minister thus denied rumors spread by opposition sectors.

[Begin Vasquez Bazan recording] Recently, conservative groups, and particularly the conservative candidate Mr Vargas Llosa, have publicly said that the IMF is about to expel Peru from the organization. This is false and wrong. I want to say that the IMF is not about to expel Peru.

In line with the policy drawn up by the nation's president and the prime minister we are conducting a policy of dialogue with the IMF and with our other creditors. From the outset we have recognized that we have an external debt problem that must be addressed according to our country's ability to pay and under the premise that the debt will not be paid at the expense of Peruvian hunger. [passage omitted]

It is only understandable that consecutive sectors, represented in this case by Mr Vargas Llosa, should be worried over that debt. They were the ones who signed Peru's debt contracts with the IMF. [passage omitted] [end recording]

PDC Ends Alliance With APRA Government

PY3008042689 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 30 Aug 89

[Excerpt] The APRA [American Popular Revolutionary Alliance], through its secretary general and presidential candidate Luis Alva Castro, today expressed its recognition and gratitude to the militants of the Christian Democratic Party [PDC]. The PDC recently decided to break the alliance it has maintained for the past 4 years with the APRA government.

Carlos Blancas, president of the PDC, was the first to address the ceremony APRA headquarters. Deputy Blancas said that the political withdrawal of his party does not represent the end of a friendship shared by the two fronts.

Luis Alva Castro, in turn, thanked the PDC for its cooperation which, he said, had been generous. He also added that it had been very good to share the responsibility of governing. [passage omitted]

Latest Shining Path Attacks, Killings Noted

PY3008142689 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2254 GMT 29 Aug 89

[Text] Ayacucho, 29 Aug (EFE)—Local police sources today reported that alleged Shining Path terrorists have killed 15 peasants and attacked the headquarters of the rightist front led by Peruvian writer Mario Vargas Llosa. Ayacucho is 576 km southeast of Lima.

Police said that last weekend Shining Path terrorists hurled grenades at residents celebrating regional festivities in two towns located in Ayacucho's highlands.

The sources added that one of the explosions killed three peasants in Machahuay, near the Cobriza mining center, while six other people died in Chacca Huanta in the other incident.

The police also reported that a guerrilla group killed three peasants whom they considered to be police "informers" in the village of Arahuay near Chacca Huanta.

They added that on Friday, 25 August, Shining Path terrorists for the first time attacked the Chincayllapa District in Arequipa Department, 1000 km south of Lima, where they set three local leaders on fire.

Witnesses told police that the guerrillas arrived in Chincayllapa early Friday, overpowered most of the people, and arrested their leaders. They then tied them to a stake, doused them with fuel, and set them on fire.

Other police sources reported that a group of guerrillas threw a bomb at the rightist Democratic Front (FREDEMO) headquarters in Huancavelica. FREDEMO is led by writer Mario Vargas Llosa, who will run in the presidential election in April 1990.

FREDEMO leader Emma Vargas, who will run for mayor of Huancavelica in the 12 November municipal elections, and her husband Rafael Benavides, who is a FREDEMO regional leader, were injured during the attack.

Huancavelica and Ayacucho are adjacent provinces located in the central Andean mountain range, 576 km southeast of Lima.

The Shining Path terrorists began their armed struggle in 1980. They have killed almost 15,000 people and caused property damage worth over $12 billion, an amount equal to 70 percent of the Peruvian foreign debt.

Uruguay

Sanguinetti Expresses Solidarity With Colombia

PY3008180289 Montevideo EL DIA in Spanish 22 Aug 89 p 9

[Text] President Julio Maria Saguinetti yesterday sent a telegram to Colombian President Virgilio Barco Vargas expressing his solidarity over the death of Senator Luis Carlos Galan. He said that the "civic spirit" of the people will triumph "over organized crime, its accomplices, and its protectors."

Sanguinetti added that it was "with pain and with indignation" that he received the news of the death of the Colombian senator, "murdered by criminals at the service of spurious interests."

Sanguinetti concluded by saying that he hopes that "this tragic event will strengthen the civic spirit which will eventually triumph over organized crime, its accomplices, and its protectors."

Foreign Minister Comments on Panama Issue

PY3008231289 Montevideo EL DIA in Spanish 22 Aug 89 p 9

[Text] Shortly before leaving for Washington to attend an OAS consultative meeting on the Panama issue, Uruguayan Foreign Minister Luis Barrios Tassano yesterday stated that "Panama must honor its commitment to promote its internal democratization."

Barrios said that by asking Panama to promote its democratization, the international community "is not interfering in Panamanian domestic affairs, but it is demanding that Panama comply with its commitments."

Barrios said that although reports from Panama "are somewhat contradictory," he is optimistic that the Panamanians will achieve "a solution that will satisfy everyone: government, opposition, and the Armed Forces."

Barrios added: "Panama's internal democratization is no longer a Panamanian domestic issue, but an international issue, because Panama has committed itself in several international forums and through several documents to promote its democratization and to respect the will of the international community. Thus, we are not imposing anything from outside."

Barrios will also meet with his colleagues of the Group of Eight in Washington to discuss the agenda of their future meetings and the presidential summit to be held in Lima in October.

On OAS Meeting

PY3008210789 Montevideo EL DIA in Spanish 27 Aug 89 p 10

[Excerpts] Returning to the country yesterday, Foreign Minister Barrios Tassano told EL DIA that the OAS ministerial level meeting "was not merely another gathering." He said that "a renewed and revitalized OAS" has emerged at a time when this regional organization is experiencing an acute crisis in various aspects, including its economic situation.

The minister noted that the regional organization is going through an unprecedented financial crisis because the member countries are delaying the payment of their contributions. [passage omitted]

Evaluating the OAS meeting in Washington, Barrios Tassano noted the importance of the unanimously-approved declaration which proves that "the organization is mature enough to adopt positions of compromise." The declaration insists on the need for the return of democracy to Panama before 1 September when the current government's term of office will end. This declaration, the minister explained, was issued within the limitations of the OAS and with due respect for the principle of non-intervention. [passage omitted]

The Uruguayan foreign minister noted that "the decisions that were made unanimously signify that the parties in the dispute, the United Sates and Panama—to name them without beating around the bush— have agreed that the resolution adopted was the best under the circumstances, because it was the only possible resolution."

Civic Union Head Ciganda Withdraws as Candidate

PY3008235489 Montevideo LA HORA POPULAR in Spanish 22 Aug 89 p 2

[Text] Civic Union President Humberto Ciganda expressed his disagreement with the way that the list of candidates for Congress is being prepared. Ciganda, who said he would no longer participate in the November elections as a candidate, is thus widening the split in the Civic Union. He is also questioning the behavior of the so-called "New Sector", made up of the PGP [Party for the Government by the people], the PDC [Christian Democratic Party], and the Civic Union.

Ciganda said he felt "left out of a list he was heading and on which he was placed by a group of friends as candidate for senator and deputy." Ciganda added that a list "was manipulated by forces outside the normal party sphere" and then approved. The Civic Union leader said that this manipulation has led him to abandon his candidacy for nay post. Ciganda said that he will continue on leave as Civic Union president and "wait for the results of the elections before deciding my future action." Ciganda said that his resignation is definite because "ethically there was no other option. I did not resign in order to speculate. I believe that morality is a value; it was the only position I could take."

Ciganda, who said he has enough experience to hold a seat in Congress, said that he would not accept any "compromises." He said that he had found "that those who tried to obtain seats by manipulation had done their work well."

Political observers said that this new Civic Union crisis is the result of a long process of internal conflicts that set a sector led by congressmen and youth against the traditional sector. Some of the highlights of those conflicts were the participation of Civic Union members Chiarino and Singer in the government, and conflicts over the Law of Expiration and the plebiscite.

Deputy Julio Daverde admitted that Ciganda's statements are the result of "a series of disagreements that do not benefit either the party or the New Sector we have formed." Daverde added that Ciganda was given the option of heading either the list of senators or the list of deputies, but "he sent us a message stating that he was giving up all candidacies." Being the experienced politician he is, Daverde said, Ciganda cannot say that the lists are being manipulated. Daverde believes that Ciganda's statements "do not contribute to the reconciliation" of the party and that Ciganda's group was against the approval of the law of expiration. Daverde concluded by saying: "Ciganda cannot head all the party lists, that is the real problem," and he admitted that his party "harms the New Sector, since we are paralyzed without political activities, and reflects an image that does not benefit the Civic Union or our allies."

Tupamaros Candidates Not To Join MPP List

PY3008224689 Montevideo LA HORA POPULAR in Spanish 23 Aug 89 p 4

[Text] The possibility of a division within the MLN [National Liberation Movement-Tupamaros Faction], the problems in the organization of the party "which is far from being good," and the "political and emotional problems" prevailing in the party have made the MLN leadership decide not to place candidates in the lists of the MPP [People's Participation Movement] and the FA [Broad Front] in the national elections.

Tupamaros leader Jorge Quartino said that the unity of the MLN was at stake. He added that "if a large majority (of the Tupamaros) feel that way, the worst thing we could do to the MPP and the FA is to run with an internal division." This division would have obstructed the contribution that the Tupamaros would have been willing to make to the electoral campaign of the MPP and the FA.

The confirmation of the decision made last week by the MLN Central Committee was made known yesterday in LA REPUBLICA. The daily reported that the MLN decision, adopted by a divided vote, had the support of the "leaders Eleuterio Fernandez Huidobro, Jose Mujica, Julio Marenales, and Jorge Zabalza, among others." Jorge Quartino and Carlos Casares, who are members of the MLN Executive Committee, said in the Del Palacio radio station program "In Perspective" that Marenales did not participate in the meeting because he was abroad.

They said that the decision not to name candidates is not a question of principle but a temporary problem and does not mean that the MLN will withdraw from democratic life. They said that "the party is going through an organizational process that is not the best" and that is one of the reasons not to participate. They added that "political and emotional reasons" also had an influence on the decision.

They said: We do not want to satisfy the rightists, some of whom said they want to see Tupamaros leaders have seats in Congress. They also reaffirmed the return of the MLN to the institutional process. They added: "We support our past actions, inlcuding armed actions."

Forteza Says 46 Party Offices Attacked in 1989

PY3008171089 Montevideo BUSQUEDA in Spanish 24-30 Aug 89 p 48

[Text] Interior Minister Francisco Forteza announced in Congress last night that the Interior Ministry has registered 46 attacks against offices of various political parties in 1989.

He noted that 25 Broad Front offices have been attacked (10 Broad Front coalition offices, 9 Communist Party offices, 4 25 de Marzo [not further identified] offices, 1 Socialist Party office, and 1 People's Victory Party office).

Forteza also said that 19 attacks have been carried out against Colorado Party offices (11 against Colorado Battleist Union offices, 6 against Unity and Reform Movement offices), and 2 against Liberty and Reform Movement offices) and 2 against National Party offices (1 against a Herrera Movement office and 1 against a For the Fatherland Movement office).

Broad Front Office Bombed

PY3008181889 Montevideo LA HORA in Spanish 28 Aug 89 p 5

[Text] Another incendiary attack was carried out against a Broad Front grass-roots committee office at 0500 yesterday. A "cocktail" of fuel, oil, and flammable material destroyed the front door of the Broad Front office at 2291 Martin C. Martinez Street near the intersection with Coquimbo Street—the headquarters of the "Hugo Cavani" committee. The timely intervention of a neighbor, who was returning home from his job, prevented the flames set off by the "Molotov" cocktail from spreading.

The committee is a member of the Broad Front "C" coordinating sector, comprising the Atahualpa, Comercial, Reducto, Villa Munoz, Goes, Jacinto Vera, Figurita, and Tres Cruces Districts [in Montevideo]. Including yesterday's, 25 attacks have been carried out since 16

April 1989 against Broad Front party and trade union offices in this area. The "Hugo Cavani" committee office was already attacked on 21 May. The "Hugo Cavani" militants reported the attack to the fourth police precinct, which has reported that there are no leads so far as to the people responsible for the attacks. All 25 attacks are still unsolved.

Export, Import Statistics for 1st Half of 1989

PY3008173089 Montevideo BUSQUEDA in Spanish 24 Aug 89 p 27

[Summary] According to reports from the Central Bank of Uruguay and the Bank of Republic of Uruguay, exports and imports for the first half of the year totalled $699.5 million and $509.5 million, respectively, resulting in a $190 million surplus for the half year. Compared to last year's figures for the same time period, exports increased by 11.7 percent and imports by 12 percent.

Venezuela

Perez Favors Meeting on Drug Trafficking

PA3008155289 Caracas Venzolana de Television Canal 8 in Spanish 0000 GMT 30 Aug 89

[Text] The Venezuelan Government has reiterated its support for a hemispheric meeting to establish joint measures against drug trafficking. Thus, President Carlos Andres Perez has endorsed the call made by his Colombian counterpart, Virgilio Barco, to face the problem.

[Begin Perez recording] I am concerned about the problem and support the efforts conducted by President Barco's government. We hope that President Barco's measures against drug trafficking will produce the expected results. Venezuela offers all its cooperation. Venezuela is also willing to participate in a hemispheric meeting, not only a Latin American meeting, but a hemispheric meeting to face in an overall and collective manner this abominable crime. Unless we vigorously and intelligently fight drug trafficking, it will become Latin America's worst scourge in the next century. [end recording]

Surveillance on Border Increased

PA3108034089 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 0026 GMT 31 Aug 89

[Text] Caracas, 30 Aug (DPA)—Defense Minister General Filmo Lopez Uzcategui confirmed today that Venezuelan soldiers are being deployed on the Colombian border in an effort to detect the possible flight of guerrillas or drug traffickers following the neighboring country's security forces offensive after the murder of Liberal Party leader Luis Carlos Galan.

Although the defense minister described the border situation as "normal," he said that the military presence is being reinforced in Apure State on the Colombian border.

Lopez Uzcategui said: "I have issued very precise instructions to further reinforce surveillance and control with military personnel," and he underscored that both countries' military commands are in constant contact with each other.

The minister did not directly deny the possibility that drug traffickers may have entered Venezuelan territory, but he stressed that "the measures that have been implemented are yielding results."

Foreign Minister on Government Policies

PA2908135189 Caracas Venezolana de Television Canal 8 in Spanish 0000 GMT 29 Aug 89

[Report by Martin Pacheco—passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] New Venezuelan Foreign Minister Reinaldo Figueredo has left for Belgrade confident that Venezuela will be admitted as a full member in the Nonaligned Movement. Figueredo was appointed to the post 27 August by the president of the Republic, and he was sworn in today shortly before his departure. Figueredo and outgoing Foreign Minister Enrique Tejera Paris signed the respective documents in the presence of all the Foreign Ministry directors.

The new foreign minister has set four immediate goals within the framework of Venezuela's foreign policies: admission to the Nonaligned Movement; the Central American situation, with emphasis on the grave Panamanian crisis; the foreign debt, which has been termed as a basic issue; and the organization of the upcoming OPEC meeting in Caracas. Since it has been said that Panama would oppose Venezuela's admittance to the Nonaligned Movement, the new foreign minister said the following:

[Figueredo] "International news agencies have reported that Panama would adopt a position that was adopted on a previous occasion, but was disregarded by the bureau of the Nonaligned Movement. We will have the opportunity of seeing things on a first-hand basis. However, I can tell you that Venezuela faithfully abides by the basic principles of the Nonaligned Movement. We will maintain the same attitude we had as observers—this time as full members."

Referring to the situation in Colombia, Foreign Minister Reinaldo Figueredo said that our country's moral support has been stated—but material aid must also be given. This will be discussed during a meeting with his Colombian counterpart, Julio Londono Paredes, in Belgrade.

Meanwhile, former Foreign Minister Enrique Tejera Paris has visited Miraflores Palace and talked with

President Carlos Andres Perez. He later talked with reporters and discussed his personal views on Panama's situation.

[Tejera] "They should feel thankful that the Venezuelan Government has been discreet with them because, to tell you the truth—now I can tell you because I am no longer foreign minister—Noriega has to leave Panama for the sake of his country. That is my point of view. Furthermore, the Panamanian Government must quickly become a democratic government which includes the opposition, and immediately call for elections—credible and legitimate elections—in that friendly country."

* New Leaders To Change Fedecamaras Image

3348026Ia Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish
23 Jul 89 p D 7

[Text] The group of four men with the clout of executive officers that the organized businessmen's movement will have in the leading organization representing it, namely, Fedecamaras [Venezuelan Federation of Associations and Chambers of Commerce and Industry], is ready to engage in monolithic action on behalf of that institution's principles. Based on these principles, the group is prepared to change the image that has been formed of the institution throughout the recent times of change in Venezuela.

Hence, they intend to use all resources to achieve this, as they explained to EL NACIONAL while they were still engaged in the deliberations of the 45th Annual Assembly held in the thriving town of Maracay.

Eddo Polessel

Eddo Polessel, one of the heads of the businessmen's movement, has been rising to important positions in the national leadership during the past 2 decades. A native of Fiume Veneto, Italy, aged 57, he has spent 35 years in our country. His family includes his wife, Amalia Tuarchini, and three children: Tiziana, with a degree in journalism; Marco, a fifth semester student of administration at the Metropolitan University; and Barbara, a third semester law student at the Andres Bello Catholic University.

Polessel is a naturalized businessman who has been prominent in business (he began as a banker in Maracay), at the Banco Italo in 1954, followed by another bank in Caracas, then a construction company, and another textile firm in Tachira. He is currently active in commercial business (heading four large companies), and in real estate, and is also the owner of two large automotive industries (Famoveca and Indupaca).

But Polessel has been prominent as a business leader since his presidency of the Hardware Chamber, later in Consecomercio [National Council of Commerce and Services], and now as president of Fedecamaras (he had already served as principal director for the commercial sector and vice president during the term just concluded by president Hugo Fonseca Viso). His main virtue acknowledged by his colleagues has been to endow the institutional movement with a doctrinal platform, in his innate capacity as a promoter and defender of the principles of free enterprise.

He reached the presidency of Fedecamaras with the consensus of all the base organizations of the businessmen's association.

"What will your immediate action as Fedecamaras president be?"

"It will be a continuation of the administration that has just ended, with special emphasis on having our proposals on national convergence implemented, so as to be able to move forward from a situation that is not affecting businessmen alone."

"How will you defend the interests of the commercial sector that you represent?"

"I am committed exclusively and full-time to the association's legitimate interests, without making sectorial or any other kinds of distinctions."

"Don't you think that even the name of this institution generates a hostile attitude among certain segments of the population?"

"That's not true. An attempt has been made to determine differences, and liability for the mistakes made by government officials, essentially. Fedecamaras is neither a government nor a political party. We are a body aware of the social responsibility that we bear, and with the right given to us by Venezuelan laws to defend freedom of action, of belief, of thought, and of information. That is how we have been acting during the 45 years since this institution was founded. This is not just talk; there are documents throughout the constitutional history of Fedecamaras attesting to our concern for national problems, even transcending our own individual interests."

He added: "Now, during the new phase that the country is undergoing, we too shall make internal adjustments so as to be consistent with what the nation demands. Steps have already been taken to modernize the institution and, from this standpoint, we shall continue the administration that has just completed its term, headed by Fonseca Viso. In other words, we shall strive to change our image and to achieve our more active participation in national life."

Jorge Chapellin Bello

He is the new first vice president and, according to all businessmen, will be the future president of Fedecamaras within 2 years.

An industrial engineer specializing in food, and recognized for his management and leadership capacity, he has been president of the Venezuelan Council of Industry. He is one of the young assets of the new generation taking over the private enterprise movement.

Chapellin Bello is Venezuelan, married, with three children. He has his residence and the headquarters of his businesses in the capital of Aragua, and directs several companies. Despite his youth (he is about 37 years old), he has been prominent as a high-ranking executive in several industries and as a business leader.

"How will you act on the 'Small Board of Directors'?"

"Fedecamaras needs a complete turnabout. This doesn't mean that what has been done thus far in this organization has been futile. But the fact is that the country has changed, and this must also be done by institutions such as Fedecamaras which, since its founding, has always played a very important role in national affairs, as indicated by the evidence of all of its public activities. It must do so in order to be able to act in the new scenario following the change that the country has undergone."

He added: "I believe that Fedecamaras must now act in a manner that is not necessarily radical, but in keeping with the country's reality. By this I mean that we cannot continue to use response mechanisms; rather, on the contrary, we must use mechanisms that will enable us to discern things before they happen.

"I don't mean that we are going to buy a crystal ball to see the future. But we do intend, first, to reinforce ourselves internally from a technical standpoint, so as to be able to serve both those whom we represent and those who determine the basic policies in the economic, political and social areas."

"How will you defend the interests of industrialists?"

He explained: "I think that the 'Small Board of Directors' will have to take off the small cap of the sector that brought it to that status, and wear the big hat of the country's interests. I shall unquestionably deal with the problems of the industrial sector but, essentially, we intend to deal with the problems of the country as a whole."

William Boulton

He is the new Fedecamaras treasurer, replacing Nelson Belfort, who succeeded in bringing that institution's accounts out of the red.

Boulton comes from the insurance sector. He is a merchant, talking little and accomplishing great things, who has accepted the challenge of continuing to extricate Fedecamaras from past chronic economic crises. He is young.

William Boulton is another representative of the new generation of business leaders who are starting to replace unforgettable captains of the Venezuelan businessmen's movement.

"How will you defend your sector on the Fedecamaras Board of Directors?"

"I don't think that the role incumbent on each of us board members, especially those of us on the Small Board of Directors, has been clearly understood. This is not a contest to be the one who does the most to defend his sector. We are committed to making the best contribution that we can to achieve the principles of Fedecamaras, which are none other than those of the country: a higher living standard, the exercise of freedoms more geared to human conditions, and faithful fulfillment of our laws, especially the National Constitution which, if analyzed, proves to be the best program for economic and social development that the nation has."

He added:"I intend, along with my colleagues on the Board, to act guided solely on the basis of the country's principles; and since Fedecamaras is an important part of the nation, our interests lie there too.

"From the standpoint of my position as treasurer, I shall continue the good administration that my predecessors carried out. I shall try to improve the collection of funds, to make Fedecamaras a truly independent organization economically, so that it can contract for services that it deems necessary to pay for economic studies making it possible to give a timely response to or, essentially, to perceive situations that can be managed because their real nature has been observed in time. We shall work as a team. That is what has been agreed upon by all of us members of this new Board."

Nelson Mezerhane

He is a really new leader on the Fedecamaras Board, representing the financial sector. An economist, Venezuelan, and president of the Federal Bank, managing a large group of companies associated with the country's financial sector, he is another young leader to join a large group entering the leadership of the businessmen's movement, in an obvious generational step.

"What intentions do you bring to the Board?"

"My first goal is to assist President Polessel in running a good administration. That is the function that we vice presidents (he is the second vice president) have in this association."

He continued: "And in particular, together with action to support the administration of the institution's president, my other goal is to reorganize Fedecamaras, so as to give it a far more aggressive and competitive position in its role for the new Venezuela in which we are living. For this purpose, we shall strive to make it stronger, so that it may represent the business sector in this challenge that we are facing.

"All those of us on the Small Board of Directors believe, as does the rest of the Executive Board, that we must have better relations with the labor sector. We want to have excellent relations with CTV [Confederation of Venezuelan Workers], and to be a strong Fedecamaras; we want to have a strong CTV and a strong government, so that all three of us may be able to sit down at the same

table and really have balance. There cannot be a weak Fedecamaras, with a different status for the other sectors comprising this trio that the country needs at present; because if that balance is destroyed, there can be no discussion, and it would be impossible to arrive at positive, progressive proposals. That will be the main feature of what we want to leave behind over the next 2 years. Creating a real Fedecamaras doesn't mean that it is not so now; rather, we shall seek to raise its representative position higher, always united with the labor sector. Obviously, no enterprise can exist without a prosperous labor sector, because there would be no demand, and all prices would drop if there were no one to make purchases. We definitely need a truly prosperous population, not a poor one."

* Perez Assures Continuity of Food Supplies

33480261b Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 23 Jul 89 p D 4

[Text] Last night President Carlos Andres Perez confirmed the fact that the nation's food supply is guaranteed.

His remarks were delivered at the close of the Fourth National Convention of the Peasant Federation of Venezuela, when Perez also made some comments on the country's situation, particularly regarding the area of agricultural-livestock activity and its effect on the country's general recovery process.

Perez remarked: "Faced with these problems, we find ourselves pressed to give a response to the food demands of our most vulnerable population and, at the same time, to implement the specifics of our policy that will enable agriculture to play the role that all societies in the world acknowledge for it, owing to its proven large capacity for generating employment and dynamizing the economy, its nature as an ideal producer of goods and wages, its enormous influence in the environmental and territorial area and, finally, but primarily, the incalculable social significance of this population whose fate is irrevocably linked with agricultural activity.

"It is my commitment to make progress in enacting a consistent agricultural and food policy that will address all these imperatives. In this respect, the government is obliged to act in the agricultural area on three fronts simultaneously.
"1. To seek ways of offsetting the recessive pressures stemming from the general shrinkage in demand.
"2. To ensure supplies of and access to staple foods for the most highly vulnerable population.
"3. To resolve the specific demands of agricultural growth, while preserving the higher objectives of economic adjustment.

"Over the short term, the government is committed to providing a strong impetus for acting in advance of potential contingencies in the current harvest. The following action will be taken for this purpose:

"1. To provide for winter production to complete the planting, particularly of corn and sorghum, and to prevent any crop loss.
"2. To lend flexibility to the mechanisms of financial policy that will make it possible to give a speedy response to the concentration of demand from the agricultural and food complex, both for financing crops and for crop purchases by the industrial and commercial sector.
"3. To organize marketing and financing operations in order to meet the growing requirements for raw materials.
"4. To expend particular effort for the improvement of the productive, roadway, silo, and processing plant infrastructure.
"5. To mobilize the irrigation plants so as to increase the rice and oil seed crops and other categories of crops in which we have great comparative advantages.
"6. To pay special attention to the dual-purpose dairy livestock industry, poultry raising, and hog production, which are currently being seriously affected by the rise in prices of balanced feed and the decline in consumption.

"Consequently, new policies will be devised for the dairy, poultry, and hog-raising industries."

* Population's Distrust of Politicians Surveyed

33480261c Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 23 Jul 89 p D 4

[Excerpts] The high cost of living, marked by the factors of relative shortages and speculation, constitutes the main concern of the national population, which appears skeptical regarding the governmental and institutional capacity for emerging from the crisis.

This conclusion is drawn from the results of an opinion poll taken by Eugenio Escuela Studies and Organization.

It involves a statistical sampling on the national level, based on a universe of 2,500 persons polled, with an admissible error of 1.96 percent.

For this survey, 1,250 men and 1,250 women were interviewed. [passage omitted]

It is inferred from the aforementioned poll that 27.75 percent consider the cost of living a priority. This is immediately followed by concern over the cases of corruption in Recadi [National Preferential Exchange Office], cited by 35.09 percent as the biggest robbery in Venezuela, with 25.26 percent demanding punishment for those to blame.

A total of 0.88 percent consider former President Jaime Lusinchi to be the really guilty one. And the gradation of responsibility is given as follows: Jaime Lusinchi (34.33 percent), Manuel Azpurua (11.67 percent), Hector Hurtado (10.66 percent), and Blanca Ibanez (3.33 percent).

As for the current administration, 38.67 percent describe the action taken by Judge Luis Guillermo La Riva Lopez, special Court of Protection examining magistrate, as correct. However, 27.63 percent regard him as

corrupt, and 26.17 percent do not think that he has exposed those who are really to blame.

The evaluation of the new administration notes that 25.64 percent think that President Perez is performing well.

Nevertheless, a feeling of incredulity is disclosed, hinting distrust in the leadership for extricating the country from the crisis: finance minister, 61.67 percent, National Congress, 71.33 percent; political parties, 68 percent; and military, 74 percent.

Mayors

Diego Arria and Adolfo Ramirez Torres score in the preferences for Caracas mayoral candidates in an opinion poll taken by Eugenio Escuela Studies and Organization during June of this year.

The aforementioned poll reveals singularly important features: the preeminence of the cost of living in the population's fundamental concerns, disbelief in the institutions for counteracting the scourge of corruption, and the dispersion of leadership.

* Corruption Seen as Main Drawback to Democracy

33480261d Caracas EL DIARIO DE CARACAS in Spanish 31 Jul 89 p 4

[Text] Freedom of expression is the leading quality that the people attribute to Venezuelan democracy, whereas corruption proved to be the main defect, in the most recent opinion poll taken by Mercanalisis in 11 of the country's cities.

The study in question, made between 15 June and 1 July, reveals that 57 percent of those interviewed responded that freedom to express ideas is the principal quality of Venezuelan democracy. Another 10 percent considered it to be freedom in all its forms, 3 percent cited freedom to choose rulers, and 1 percent attributed it to the right to work, personal security, and equality, respectively.

Moreover, 13 percent said "no quality," 6 percent mentioned other qualities, and 9 percent claimed not to know.

The acknowledgment of freedom of expression as the main virtue of democracy in Venezuela has been a constant shown in the various polls taken by Mercanalisis since 1983.

Corruption: 44 Percent

On the other hand, in response to the question "what in your opinion is the principal defect in Venezuelan democracy," 44 percent of those polled replied administrative corruption.

This figure represents a 16 percent increase over the previous Mercanalisis poll taken last March, when it was 28 percent.

Licentiousness was regarded by 7 percent of those interviewed as the main defect in democracy, and the same number cited lack of authority and the fact that the laws are not obeyed.

A total of 9 percent considered it to be demagoguery, political promises, and bad rulers; whereas only 5 percent regarded personal security as the principal defect, and 4 percent mentioned the high cost of living and inflation.

The responses of 1 percent of those interviewed cited unemployment and inequality between the poor and the rich, while 3 percent claimed that there was "no defect."

Oddly enough, half of the men interviewed cited corruption as the main defect, whereas the number of women who cited corruption was only 38 percent.

A total of 49 percent of those interviewed on the A-B socioeconomic level agreed in responding "corruption," 51 percent on level C mentioned it, as did 43 percent on level D; whereas the number declined to 36 percent among the poor class.

The highest level for that response occurred in the Andean capitals, with 56 percent.

* Natural Gas Represents Important Energy Source

33480261e Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 23 Jul 89 p D 9

[Text] Venezuela possesses an enormous natural gas potential, because it has sufficient resources to last over 100 years. This information is inferred from presentations by Corpoven (a Petroven [Venezuelan Petroleum, Inc.] subsidiary) at the meeting on "Natural Gas and Development in Carabobo," held in Valencia.

The presentations were made by Corpoven's managers for planning, transmission and distribution, integral protection, and gas sales: Antonio Martinez, Jose Luis Ortiz, Luis Isturiz, and Neuro Silva, respectively.

Natural gas has become one of the most valued energy sources in the world because of its quality as a nonpolluting hydrocarbon. Its utilization in our country is total, because it provides 29 percent of the energy consumed on the domestic market, with 28 percent supplied in the form of hydroelectricity and the remainder in the form of liquid hydrocarbons.

Given the abundant volume of gas resources that the country has, Corpoven is carrying out different projects for the use of natural gas and its liquids as petrochemical components and fuel to replace exportable liquid hydrocarbons.

The Venezuelan Petroleum subsidiary is responsible for the processing, transmission, distribution, and marketing of 23 million cubic meters of natural gas per day, the equivalent in energy of 140,000 barrels of oil per day. For this purpose it has 4,500 km of gas pipelines

extending from the eastern producing fields to the consumption enclaves located in Guayana, northern Anzoategui, and the central and west central regions of the country.

The New Gas Network (Nurgas), the first phase of which is already in service, has a capacity to provide an additional volume of gas amounting to 18 million cubic meters per day to the central region. Its second phase, between Altagracia de Orituco and Moron, will be completed by the end of this year.

The company is also working on a project to introduce natural gas for vehicles on the Venezuelan market as an alternative to gasoline; it is nonpolluting, costs less, and makes it possible to extend the useful life of engines.

Twenty-five percent of Corpoven's industrial clients are concentrated in the state of Carabobo, and this year they will consume nearly 5 million cubic meters of natural gas per day—a volume that is expected to double by 1996. The largest increase in demand for this state is related to the petrochemical and electrical sectors; while on the national level stress should also be placed on the development planned in the iron and steel and the aluminum sectors.

The manager for gas sales reported that Corpoven is rendering technical assistance to all its clients, both for the design of internal gas installations and the conversion of natural gas equipment, and providing advice on problems that might crop up.